# The Levite

The Magazine of the JOHN WATSON CLUB

## HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF JOHN WATSON'S SCHOOL

# The Levite

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## EDITORIAL.

The purpose of this issue of *The Levite* is to provide those former pupils, who do not possess a complete series of the Magazine, and also everyone who is interested in John Watson's School, with the salient features of its history. Mr D. M. Thomson, who was Editor of the Magazine from 1903-1932, devoted a great amount of his time in research concerning the School and almost all the information in these pages is the result of his labours. Most of the articles are reprints of his contributions to earlier numbers of *The Levite* and the few pages, which are not of this nature, are a compilation of data gained from his work. It was Mr Thomson who discovered the Founder's Grave and it may be that he, who made it possible for the Directors and Former Pupils to pay an act of homage to the memory of John Watson at Greyfriars' Churchyard, may also by his very interesting account of "The Genesis of John Watson's" inspire former pupils and others who read this *Levite* to bequeath or to give sums of money to this unique School and thus make certain that, when remorseless Time will bring the necessity for a complete renovation of the beautiful building opened in 1828, there will be ample funds available for the purpose and the Founder's work will be continued.

*By D. M. Thomson*

JOHN WATSON'S SCHOOL.

## THE MEMORY OF JOHN WATSON.

John Watson's! A name which "springs the imagination," to use Meredith's phrase, whenever it is heard by past or present pupil of the Institution. But at the mention of the name is there any thought of hero-worship? The question is unexpectedly difficult to answer. To find a reason for this one has to go back to the genesis of the School. The reason is that John Watson was the Founder and yet not the Founder. Had he not set his seal to a rash vow, the exact terms of which are not revealed, there is no doubt that the School would never have existed, but the honour of fulfilling the vow, which seemed impossible to him, belongs for the most part to six successive venerable fathers of the Society of Writers to the Signet. The sixth was Vans Hathorn. The story of their work, particularly the multiplying of the Founder's legacy until it had reached the magnificent sum of £112,303 5s. 7d.,* reads like a romance. But what of the Founder? The concealing mists of time, further clouded by the silence of the early Treasurers, have served to obscure his personality until it has become enshrouded in mystery. Our present object, therefore, is to endeavour to restore the memory of John Watson to the School. First of all, a knowledge of his life and character is necessary. The writer has, accordingly, for some years taken notes of any reference to Mr Watson in old records, and now places the fruit of these researches at the disposal of the Institution.

John Watson lived in the stirring and romantic days of the early eighteenth century, when the glamour of the Stuart cause held sway over the hearts and lives of the people of Scotland. In the risings of the "Fifteen" and the "Forty-five" it was not uncommon for members of a family to take different sides of the conflict. A striking instance of such a divided house furnished the first clue to the personality of John Watson. In one of his wills there were found the names of two of his cousins, the elder being an adherent of the Crown, while the younger was "all for Prince Charlie." Their name was Carnegie, and they came of the stock of the Earls of Southesk. From this relationship much authentic information has been obtained about our Founder.

We open this sketch with an incident which happened in 1690, and which had far-reaching effects. In the summer of that year the Ministers of William and Mary sent orders to Sir David Carnegie, of the Barony of Pittarrow, to punish the rebels who were haunting the straths of the Mearns. After much difficulty, he raised 400 tenants and fencible men, and marching to Cutties-hillock, he defeated the enemy. In revenge, the rebels gathered together their whole army of 3,000 men and upwards, and encamping at Pittarrow House, plundered it and laid waste to the countryside. Sir David's

* This sum was given in the "State of Funds," which was deposited in the cavity of the School's foundation stone.

household was scattered far and wide. His eldest surviving son, John, a youth of seventeen, is in April, 1691, found under the care of the celebrated Gilbert Burnett, Bishop of Salisbury. While in England he received a long letter written in December, 1692, by his brother William, at Edinburgh. Part of it ran :—

> " I expect that my father and sister Kat. will be hear nixt weeke, for he designs to give up house at Pittarrow, and will board him self with hes mother while in the north, and Kat. will stay at the schools."

Whether this news forecasted a change for himself we know not, but shortly afterwards John Carnegie left the Cathedral town of Salisbury for the Capital of his native land. There he was placed by his father under the governorship of Mr David Watson, a young Writer of the town, in order that he might have some insight into the legal aspect of the estate affairs which his father was soon to hand over to his charge. The happy meetings of the young heir with his delicate brother William, and their elder sister Catherine, appear to have included Mr Watson, and before many months had run their course Miss Catherine Carnegie left " the schools," with the consent of her father, to become Mrs Watson. The first child of the marriage was born on 11th October, 1695, and received the old Scottish name of Euphan. Two sons, named David and John, were born about the years 1703 and 1705, but the Register for the City Parish of Edinburgh has not yielded up the exact date of their births, as it did their sister's. Every reader has, of course, recognised the younger son's name at once !

When the question of his sons' education came to be considered, it is but natural to think that Mr Watson would send his boys to the High School, the one great classical school in Edinburgh at that time. In Dr. Steven's history of the School we find the name of John Watson included in the list of former pupils of eminence and rank, but we have been unable to verify the dates of the sessions when he and his brother attended.

At the early age of fourteen the elder son, David, entered upon the Literary or Arts course at Edinburgh University, which he completed after four sessions of study in 1721. During that period he attended the classes of Laurence Dundas, Professor of Humanity, and of William Scott, Professor of Greek. Thereafter he took up the subject of medicine, and became a surgeon. Our knowledge of him ends with the fact that he died in the prime of life, leaving a daughter, who received generous recognition in the wills of her uncle, John Watson.

In the year 1719 John Watson became a fellow student of his brother, taking, as the youth of that time were strongly advised to do, a course of Latin, to add to his knowledge of the classics. After spending a session at these studies, he left the University, probably to become apprenticed to the law under the immediate supervision of his father. In the year 1723 he went on a business mission to

# TABLE showing the Relationship of several Persons named in the accompanying Sketch of JOHN WATSON.

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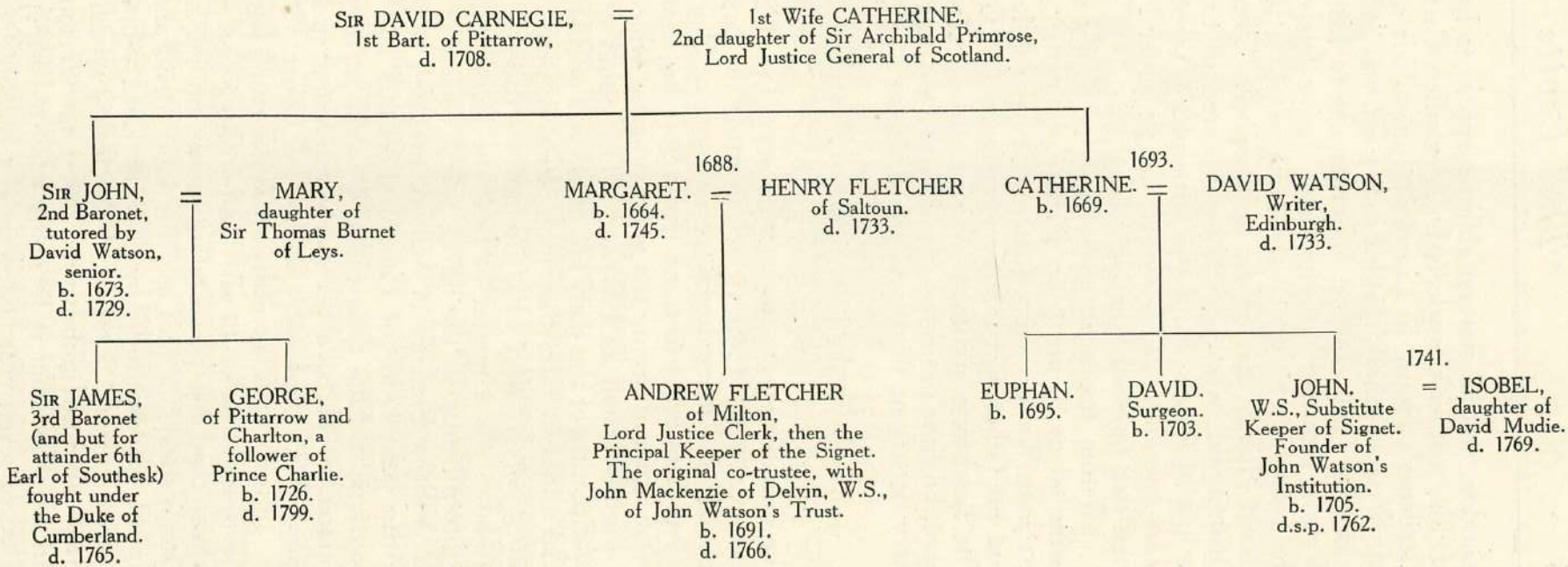

SIR DAVID CARNEGIE, 1st Bart. of Pittarrow, d. 1708.
1st Wife CATHERINE, 2nd daughter of Sir Archibald Primrose, Lord Justice General of Scotland.
SIR JOHN, 2nd Baronet, tutored by David Watson, senior. b. 1673. d. 1729.
MARY, daughter of Sir Thomas Burnet of Leys.
MARGARET. b. 1664. d. 1745.
1688.
HENRY FLETCHER of Saltoun. d. 1733.
CATHERINE. b. 1669.
1693.
DAVID WATSON, Writer, Edinburgh. d. 1733.
SIR JAMES, 3rd Baronet (and but for attainder 6th Earl of Southesk) fought under the Duke of Cumberland. d. 1765.
GEORGE, of Pittarrow and Charlton, a follower of Prince Charlie. b. 1726. d. 1799.
ANDREW FLETCHER of Milton, Lord Justice Clerk, then the Principal Keeper of the Signet. The original co-trustee, with John Mackenzie of Delvin, W.S., of John Watson's Trust. b. 1691. d. 1766.
EUPHAN. b. 1695.
DAVID. Surgeon. b. 1703.
JOHN. W.S., Substitute Keeper of Signet. Founder of John Watson's Institution. b. 1705. d.s.p. 1762.
1741.
ISOBEL, daughter of David Mudie. d. 1769.

London, and his natural abilities appear to have attracted the notice of his mother's uncle, Mr Alexander Carnegie, who resided at Gardener's House in Lincoln's Inn. This old accountant wrote to Mr Watson, senior, that his son, John, was " a hopeful bright youth," and one " who will be an ornament to his family." When John Watson returned to Edinburgh, he re-entered the University. In the year 1725 he sat on the same bench of the Logic class-room as David Hume, the famous philosopher. Their professor was Colin Drummond, whose teaching appeared so to act on Hume's mind as first to arouse in him the principles of sceptical philosophy. Two years later John Watson took Greek under Professor Scott, and he then said farewell to student days.

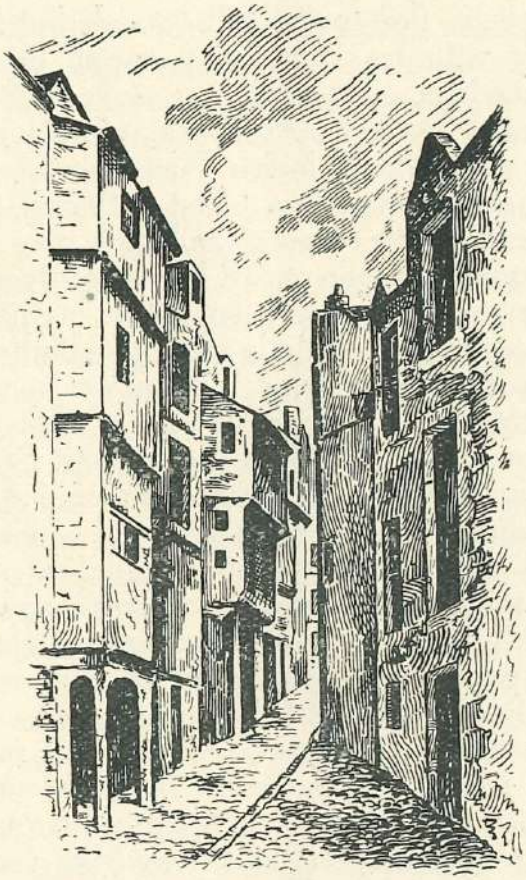
Within the next few years the family circle appears to have dwindled down until the death of his father on 12th March, 1733, left John Watson almost the sole representative. His pen has stated that his father and mother were buried in Greyfriar's Churchyard. The headstone at their grave has disappeared like so many others there, but it is not difficult to identify the exact spot. The following entry occurs in the Burial Register :—

" 1733 March Mr David Watson Wryter dyed 12, b. 14, 5 d.p.
Cars tomb and 3 d.p. S. Young stone kirk turff."

The initial letters mean that the grave lies five double paces in front of the Carstare's tomb (which overtops the boundary wall of Heriot's School), and three double paces south of Young's stone.

It is pleasing to think that before his death Mr Watson had the gratification of seeing the good progress which his son, John, made in his profession as a Writer. The genius of Scott has given us a vivid picture of the daily life of lawyers of that period, and his fiction is so allied to fact, that John Watson might have been one of the young lawyers who walk through the pages of " The Heart of Mid-lothian." As a matter of fact, the Lord Justice Clerk, who figure, so prominently in the novel, was a cousin of John Watson's ! He Mr Andrew Fletcher of Milton, presided at the now historic trials, in the year 1736, of Captain Porteous and Isabella Walker, the prototype of Effie Deans, and it is almost needless to say that John Watson would be a peculiarly interested spectator of the exciting scenes which took place within the Court.

In these days, as nearly always, a young lawyer required influence if he were to make an early and striking success ; and happily Lord Milton used his powerful influence on his cousin's behalf. John Watson speaks of him as " his kind friend and benefactor," and he showed his gratitude by leaving Lord Milton £2,000. He also appointed him a Trustee of the legacy which founded the School. In the month of February, 1739, John Watson formed his first link with the W.S. Society by being admitted a member, and in the short period of seven years he became a notable figure in its ranks when, in 1746, he became Substitute Keeper of the Signet, an office which



GOSFORD'S CLOSE, EDINBURGH.

he retained until his death. We shall give later an instance of the way he led the Society in benevolent deeds.

It is interesting to observe Van Hathorn's opinion of the Founder. He remarks that " Mr Watson was a Writer to the Signet of eminence and considerable employment in his profession." There are proofs of the truth of this in Mr Watson's personal papers. These contain list after list of clients' names. One document alone has over fifty names of men of many degrees, lords of session, knights, landed proprietors, professional men, burgesses and merchants as far scattered as Dunkirk in France and Gothenburg in Sweden. Only one lady's name appears, that of the Countess of Caithness. After her name an unknown hand has added the naive comment " She was a friend of Mr Watson's, with whom he meant to act tenderly." This intention was loyally observed, the payment of a tithe of her debt sufficing to cancel the whole. One of his clients in Gothenburg was a young cousin, George Carnegie. He, when only eighteen years of age, had joined Prince Charlie at Holyrood, and shared his fortunes until disastrous Culloden. At that battle his elder brother, Sir James Carnegie, fought under the Duke of Cumberland, having sailed with the latter to Scotland from Flanders, where, it is recorded, he showed great bravery at Fontenoy. After the rout of his Prince,

Mr George Carnegie fled to the hills, wandering from one hiding place to another with his kinsman, Carnegie of Balnamoon. At length they reached the coast, and were picked up in an open boat by a vessel bound to Sweden. At this ebb of his fortune Mr George Carnegie found a true friend in Mr Watson, who, although thirled to the Government, showed that blood is thicker than water. He made himself banker to his cousins, the King's man and the Jacobite, and left each a legacy " for the regard I have for them." After many years the brothers restored the fallen estate of their house, which had suffered since the rebels' raid in their grandfather's time in 1690.

As we have remarked, John Watson was a supporter of the Government. He held the appointments of Solicitor to the Post Office and Assistant Solicitor of Customs and Salt Duties. The Post Office system had been established throughout Scotland in the year 1695 ; and during the Jacobite risings and long after the " Forty-five," the mails were spied upon to such an extent that even the Commander of the Forces in Scotland complained that his letters were opened. Mr Watson's post could not, therefore, have been a sinecure, except perhaps on a certain day of 1758, when the London mail brought only one letter to Edinburgh.

The mails which John Watson himself used most largely were those northward bound to Montrose. In and around that town he had many kinsmen and clients. At Montrose he met the lady who was to become his wife. Her name was Miss Isobel Mudie, the daughter of a merchant there. When they were married in November 1741, John Watson was thirty-six and his bride less than twenty-one. Vans Hathorn states that our Founder had no family.

If one were to search to-day for the residence of John Watson in Edinburgh, the causeway at the north end of George IV. Bridge would, if the stones could speak, tell that his house stood there in Gosford's Close, until the year 1835. In his lifetime, and for centuries before, many famous scholars, wits, lawyers and merchants dwelt in the lands and closes of the Land Market, now called the Lawn-market, and Gosford's Close attracted many of these as residents. It was distinguished by the highly decorated town mansion of the old time Abbot of Cambuskenneth. Grant says " It would seem to have been of considerable size, and from the mass of sculptured fragments, all beautiful Gothic carvings, found in the houses of the Close, must have been a considerable feature in the city." Among the neighbouring tenements several ladies of rank and fashion had their own households. Their names are preserved in local histories, and of these ladies the most interesting to us in the light of to-day is Lady Nisbet of the Dean. When John Watson spoke to this lady or saw her " in the fourth storey within the turnpike of the stone tenement of land " at the head of the Close, little did he imagine that his name was to be so closely linked with that of her estate. Gosford's Close ceased to be fashionable with the advent of sedan chairs, as owing to the narrowness of the close, it was impossible

for them to get through. Before Edinburgh awakened and society deserted the Royal Mile, the tenements in the closes were very valuable, John Watson's house, for instance, being valued at £870.

John Watson also owned a country house. It was situated in the parish of Liberton, and was called "Bellfield" or "Nellfield." This house, standing in ten acres of ground, is still in existence under the changed name of "Mount Vernon." The writer knows of no more pleasant short walk out of Edinburgh than to make one's way up the brae leading to Liberton Church, and at the cross-roads to turn eastward down the country road until the lodge gates of Mount Vernon are reached. Glancing along the short avenue, one sees a typical country house of the early Georgian period, with offices almost hidden by foliage. Advancing to the entrance door of the house one observes that the hall extends backward to open out on steps leading into a bright sunlit garden. Trees abound all around as thickly as at the Institution. (An old record of 1792 states that the property "contains 500 full grown trees.") When one returns to the winding public road, a magnificent sweep of the city, its hills and the Firth meet the eye. Such a scene, without the lines of houses spreading southward of the Royal Mile, must often have been a source of pleasure to John Watson as his chaise and horses took him into town.

Pleasant as the view lay before him, John Watson was not unmindful of the tragedies of human life taking place in the midst of smiling nature. At the time of which we write, May, 1758, he was staying with his wife at Bellfield, having had a long indisposition. In past years he had had several pensioners or "annuitants" of his own. Now and in future, as his "circumstances had greatly ameliorated" (his fortune was over £10,000), he desired to share the fruit of his success with a wider circle of kinsmen and friends, rich and poor. The first of these "donations," one of £100, benefited the parish of Liberton. According to the goodly custom of those times, the Kirk Session was made the keeper and disposer of such moneys, and in the old parish kirk of Liberton (demolished in 1815) "on the wall near the pulpit, was affixed a large board, on which was recorded the several donations made to the poor of the parish." The interest on John Watson's legacy is distributed yearly.

Before another month of 1758 had passed we find John Watson drawing up another will, by which he considerably increased the number of his annuitants, and he also left £100 to the Edinburgh Poorhouse, and £300 to the Magistrates of Edinburgh. His directions to the latter were :—

> "The interest of which sum I appoint them to lay out and employ in purchasing meall when it shall exceed ten pence per peck, and to distribute the same amongst such of the poor of the said City of Edinburgh as they shall think stand most in need thereof."

This donation had, of course, a greater importance in these olden days than it would have at the present time. Meal formed a large

part of the dietary of the people, and on occasions of severe scarcity riots or " meal mobs " often arose. The Meal Market in the Cowgate lay directly behind Parliament House, and it is not improbable that John Watson sometimes walked down from Gosford's Close and observed with keen interest the scenes taking place at the Market. We can thus conjecture more or less correctly who originated the meeting of the W.S. Society held on 10th December, 1759, which is minuted as follows :—

> " The meeting gave great attention to what the lord keeper (Lord Milton) had laid before them and being highly sensible of the present dearth of meall in the public market which, were it allowed to continue for some time, must reduce the poor to very great straits and difficulties ; and, being desirous to contribute for their relief, they appointed Messrs John Watson and Alexander Tait to go about immediately and call a voluntary contribution in the society, and report the sum total to the keeper and commissioner."

Some seven or eight months before this meeting had taken place, John Watson's health had again become a source of anxiety to his friends, and acting on the advice of his doctors, William and Andrew Wood, he travelled to Bath to take the waters. One of his clerks, Mr Alexander Gordon, and his body servant, Andrew Marshall, went with him. After recovering some degree of health he set out on the long coach journey back to Edinburgh. As he traversed the ridings of Yorkshire his health once more failed him, and he had to break his journey at St. Hutton. How many days he stayed there is not known, but on the 2nd of July, 1759, he called his clerk to his beside and directed him to write his will. This was the last and most important of all his wills, and was the deed which led to the existence of the Institution.

The terms of the will were mainly to the effect that at the decease of his wife the residue of his estate was to be entrusted to his cousin, Lord Milton, and his life-long friend, Mr John Mackenzie of Delvin, W.S., to apply to such pious purposes as they think proper. This residue amounted to £4,000 when Mrs Watson died in 1769.

After John Watson had signed the will, he wrote to Lord Milton as follows :—

> " My Lord,
>
> I have, for certain reasons, which perhaps may not appear good and sufficient, thought proper to execute the enclosed deed ; and if your Lordship shall not think proper to accept of the trust therein mentioned, I only request you will cause put it upon record, and that an extract thereof may be delivered to the Provost of Edinburgh.
>
> I am sensible that at present I am not very fit to make new settlements ; but I made a rash *vow* to execute the enclosed one, which I think binding upon me.
>
> And wishing your Lordship and family much happiness.
>
> I am, &c.
>
> (Signed) JOHN WATSON."

The letter shows that the innate good sense which was characteristic of John Watson throughout his life was never greater than when he faced the debt of honour he owed to his own conscience. His idea of honour might to-day be thought quixotic, but not so in the times in which he lived—the duelling days.

Unsolvable as the riddle of the vow has ever been, we have evidence that John Watson took a special interest in fatherless children during his lifetime. In the history, published in 1835, of the Orphan Hospital the following entry appeared in the list of donations under the year 1798 :—

> " Mrs Isobel Mudie, relict of John Watson, W.S.,
> under the burden of an annuity of £5.....£181, 4s. 9d.

In other words, in continuance of the interest which John Watson had himself taken in the Hospital, it received from his widow and trustees over £350 in the course of thirty-six years after his death.

When the sealed packet, containing the will, had been despatched to Lord Milton by the fast mail coach, John Watson took a new lease of life and " recovered his health," as Van Hathorn remarks. He resumed the seat in his chaise, and proceeding by easy stages, eventually reached home.

As we have already related, John Watson spent part of the following winter in Edinburgh, collecting funds from members of the W.S. Society to relieve the distress among the poor. This is the last public action of which we can find record, and are not our readers content to have it so ? It is characteristic of his whole career.

In the silence which covers the last eighteen months of his life, John Watson appears to have been able to give attention to his many-sided business affairs. His papers show that his last investment, the purchase of Royal Bank stock, was incomplete at the time of his death. This stock formed part of the estate handed to the Trustees, and it alone rose in value to over £39,000 by the year 1821.

During his latter days John Watson's ailment appears to have been simply a gradual loss of strength, and he died of " decay " at his dwelling house in Gosford's Close on Friday, 5th November, 1762, in his fifty-seventh year.

Five years before his death he wrote :—

> " And when it pleases God to call me out of this world, I request of the said Andrew Fletcher Esq that he will take the direction of my Buriale and funeralls, and cause bury me in a private and decent manner in the Grayfriars churchyard and in that place thereof where my father and mother were buried or as near it as can conveniently be done."

The interment took place at the churchyard named on Tuesday, 9th November, and was attended by the Lord Keeper, Mr Andrew Fletcher, and other members of the W.S. Society. Among the mourners may also be numbered (if gifts of complimentary mourning be taken as evidence), the Rev. James Watson, of the Canongate ; Mr Robert Jamieson, W.S., a former apprentice of John Watson's ; Mr Alexander Gordon, the writer and witness of the last will ; Mr

Lockhart Richardson, another apprentice ; and Andrew Mitchell, the faithful servant, to whom John Watson left an annuity and his silver watch.

The grave of John Watson is situated not many yards to the south of the Martyrs' Monument, and exactly eighteen feet in front of the ancient carved wall-stone erected to Murray of Deuchar in 1649. A willow tree marks the grave. The old burial register runs as follows :—

" 1762 Nov. 9. John Watson wryter L3 d p W, Murrays tomb decay Writer to the Signet."

No portrait of John Watson is known to exist, and therefore the fancy of one's mind is allowed to depict him at will. However much the picture may differ as regards the wig and costume of the Georges, it will assuredly portray a well developed head—the sign of natural benevolence—and the kindly features of a *friend*. John Watson had a capacity for friendship amounting to genius. He was far from being merely the man of parchment and tape, for his clients became his friends always. His papers may mark the debt of a client on the credit side, but a legacy from him to the client often appeared on the debit side. A man of high integrity himself, he was able to trust in the integrity of others. It was the faith he had in his two life-long friends which made it possible for him to seal his " vow ; " and that high purpose of his to befriend fatherless children will, as long as the School exists, be a lasting honour to his name.

D. M. Thomson.

## THE SCHOOL GRACES.

(*In use since* 1835, *if not earlier.*)

Before.

Gracious God, grant us Thy blessing with this expression of Thy goodness. As we live by Thy bounty, may we live in Thy fear, and enable us whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, to do all to Thy glory ; and pardon all our sins, for Christ's sake. Amen.

After.

O Lord, accept of our thanksgiving for the bounty we have just received at Thy hand, and make us grateful for every blessing we have enjoyed upon earth and for the gracious promise of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Lift up upon us the light of Thy glorious countenance ; and pardon all our sins, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## GENESIS OF JOHN WATSON'S.

" Dear the schoolboy spot,
We ne'er forget, though there we are forgot."

BRYON.

In the good old days of a century and a half ago, on the 2nd July, 1759, an eminent legal luminary named John Watson, W.S., endeavoured to fulfil what he termed " a rash vow " to found an hospital for training children.

On that date Mr Watson executed a will, at St. Hutton in Yorkshire, by which he bequeathed to his wife, Isabella Mudie the liferental of the principal sum of £1300, together with £200 for mournings and other uses, also his household furniture in Edinburgh, silver plate, and china ; and he directed that at her decease (which occurred in 1769) the residue of the estate be left in the custody of two Trustees, Mr Andrew Fletcher, of Milton, W.S., and Mr John Mackenzie, of Delvin, W.S., " in the sight of the Magistrates of Edinburgh, to apply to such pious and charitable purposes within the city, as they shall think proper."

Looking to the value of his estate, one can readily understand the qualification Mr Watson himself placed on his vow, as he would know but too well that his fortune was quite inadequate even for many years to come for his purpose. But this nest-egg was not one to be despised, for it was subsequently added to in a wonderful way ; indeed, its history forms a romantic tale of finance such as one seldom meets with in this every-day world.

Within sixteen years after Mr Watson's death, which took place at Edinburgh, on 5th November, 1762, both of his original Trustees

departed this life; and so faithfully had they performed their stewardship that the fund in 1871 amounted to £4700.

Mr Fletcher and Mr Mackenzie had some years previously executed a deed declaring that on their decease the management of the fund should come under the direction of the Principal Keeper, Deputy-Keeper, and Commissioners of the Writers to the Signet.

In course of time the Signet authorities, having appointed Mr Samuel Mitchelson, senior, W.S., the Treasurer of the Funds (1781-1788), entered upon their self-imposed duty, and it might seem, in the natural order of things, that this act of theirs would have been allowed to go on unchallenged. The fickleness of human nature showed itself, however, when the Society, after having carefully tended the funds for thirty years, sought to acquire title to uplift the accumulations of the same amounting to £60,000.

Edinburgh had at this time—1812—not long begun to lay the foundations of the educational establishments from which the City now justly derives her fame as a seat of learning. The Lord Provost and City Magistrates were in the vanguard of this progressive movement; and, being jealous of their dignity, seized the opportunity afforded them of contesting the rights of this powerful legal incorporation to the funds.

In February, 1812, the rival parties brought the dispute before the Court of Session, and the resulting settlement was in favour of the Writers to the Signet. We need not now enter into the details of the contest, but will rather forgive and forget, as the Civic authorities did, by their afterwards gracing the initial ceremony at the School. *En passant*, however, it is interesting to record that the Lord Provost of the Time was Sir William Fettes, the founder of Fettes College, who probably derived his inspiration, as George Donaldson subsequently did, from the example of John Watson.

We get a glimpse into the tragic side of the life of our forefathers at this era—which is indelibly marked by the Burke and Hare murders—when it is observed that the Society hastened to alter the deed of settlement in order to allow the funds being used to establish a foundling hospital. Happily this agitation was merely of a passing nature, since an Act of Parliament was, in 1822, petitioned for and granted, empowering the Trustees to establish and endow an hospital for the maintenance and education of fatherless children of the professional classes—a charter which has been unaltered to this day.

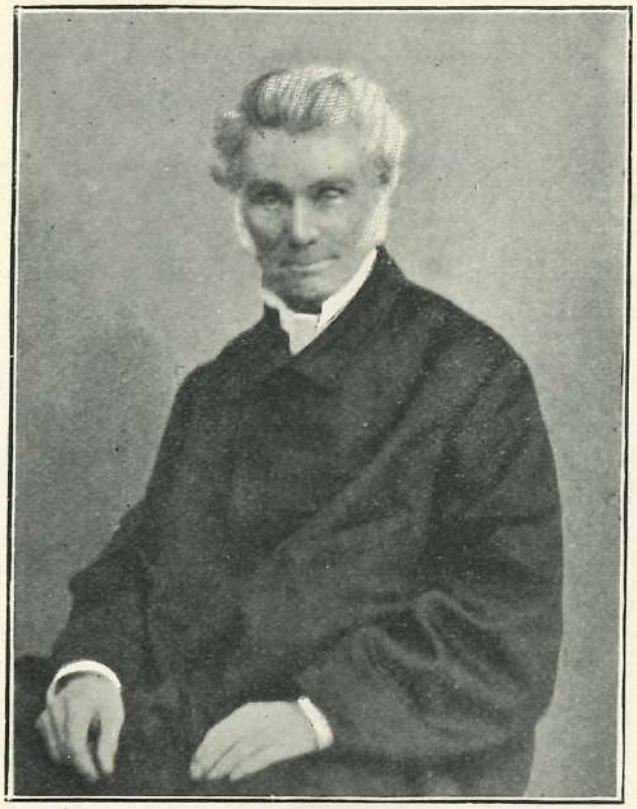
It is a circumstance nearly incredible, but which is ascertained from authentic documents, that at this period the Funds had rapidly increased, by the genius of Vans Hathorn, the second Treasurer, to over £110,000!

The Signet authorities exercised characteristic caution before proceeding to erect a building which would be consonant with the magnificence of the City and adequate to the object to be accomplished. Eventually, in 1825, they bought part of the Estate of Dean, near Bell's Mills, Edinburgh, and appointed Mr William Burn,

a leading city architect who afterwards designed the Edinburgh Academy, to draw up plans of the edifice, which, when ready, were of a highly elegant and simply ornamental Grecian style, and showed a very judicious arrangement of its apartments—the building, with its Doric portico, corresponding in point of beauty with the nature of its surroundings.

On Monday, 4th July, 1825, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of John Watson's was witnessed by the Directors of the Institution, the Lord Provost and Magistrates, the Sheriff-Depute of the County, and a considerable gathering of spectators. In a

THE FIRST HEADMASTER.



THE REV. CHARLES MARSHALL,
1827-1841.

bottle, hermetically sealed, were placed a copy of the deed of settlement of Mr Watson, and deed of destination by the Trustees, a copy of the Act of Parliament, a copy of the regulations, a list of the Society of Writers to the Signet, and of Office-Bearers of the Funds, a set of newspapers, etc. The stone was in due form laid by Mr Richard Mackenzie, the Deputy Keeper of the Signet, after which, Dr. David Dickson, the celebrated Minister of St. Cuthbert's, in a suitable and most impressive prayer, implored the blessing of the Almighty on the Institution.

That this prayer has been richly answered can be truly owned by hundreds of pupils, old and young, and of both sexes, to all of

whom the Institution has discharged its duties faithfully as a foster mother during its three-quarters of a century of existence ; and that our revered parent may long continue to play this excellent role to coming generations is the earnest wish and fervent prayer of all who have come under the care of the parental guardian, whose motto is that of Queen Dido, *Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco.*

It doubtless was with unusual pleasure that the citizens of Edinburgh viewed the building of the Institution, for a widespread interest had arisen at the time in the cause of Education, chiefly through the influence of those handmaids of Literature—the newspapers. In their bi-weekly issues, they discussed the subject so frequently that it ultimately gained the ear of the general public, and particularly of the educated classes, who subscribed to the Reviews —the organs of the famous Edinburgh school of literature. The result was that school after school was opened, or built anew, at short intervals.

For instance, on 28th July, 1825, a few days after the initial ceremony at John Watson's, the scholars of the Royal High School walked in public procession, from their old quarters in the High Street of Edinburgh, to witness the foundation stone being laid of their present building.

At this period, building operations were, comparatively speaking, very slow ; but yet, this was not without the advantage that more mature thought could be spent on them. What better illustration have we of this than John Watson's, which, while it took three years to build and furnish, at a cost of £22,000, has been so well thought out that scarcely a structural alteration has since been required.

Some former pupils may remember, however, the erection in 1855 of an open shelter in the boy's playground, and its conversion into the now famous " long playroom " by the addition of an outer brick wall.

At the present time a handsome Gymnasium for the use of the boys and girls is being erected, and it will probably be finished in the autumn.

Prior to the building of the present house for the Head Master in 1866, he slept under the School roof. At first, his rooms were those now occupied by the Assistant Masters, next to the Third Section, and later, those now known as the Head Master's Room and the new Library.

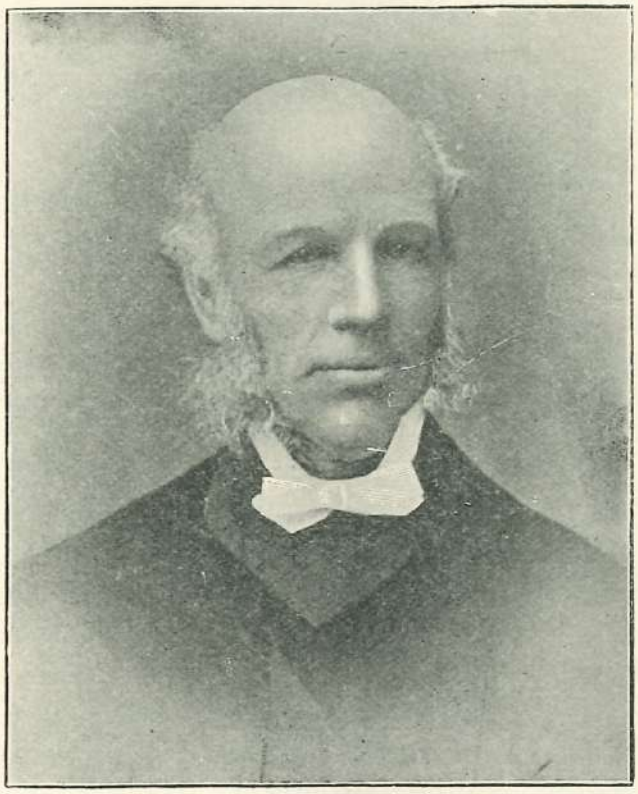
It was not until 1857 that the pupils over ten years of age were given separate beds, and in that year the Convalescent Rooms at both ends of the House, which had never been used for their special purpose, were then occupied as now. This had also the effect, at the boy's end, of the Junior Master, who had hitherto occupied the " Wee Room " as his bedroom, removing to the room adjoining the " Big Room," and of the " Wee Room " being put to its present use. Greater comfort was also brought about by the room next to the boys' bathroom (in which were a plunge and a shower bath) being

converted from a store room into a dressing room. A similar change was made at the girls' side of the House, the dressing room there having been previously used as a dining room by the teachers, who, in exchange, were given the present room between the First and Second Sections.

So far as can be ascertained, no changes have taken place in the use of such rooms as the Chapel, which measures 55 feet in length and 30 feet in breadth, the Sections, Dining Halls, Play-rooms or Sick-rooms.

On turning to the external arrangements of the Institution, one meets with the same studied care in their planning. A Porter's

THE SECOND HEADMASTER.



THE REV. JOHN FORBES, LL.D.,
1841-1850.

Lodge, with a small portico, was built at the Entrance Gate, and thorn hedges and young trees were planted, which, in their full growth, combined with the floral work of the gardener (especially at the Bower), now make the Avenue a delightful approach to the School. Stone walls were built so as to enclose the estate, and trees were planted bordering the public road to add to the privacy of the grounds.

The wood situated between the Water of Leith and the back of the School also claimed the attention of the Directors, and it is interesting to note that the ruined tower at the north-west corner

of the Cauldron was a windmill, once used by Mr Sawers when he owned Bell's Mills. Old pupils may remember the deep pool formed by the rough stone weir in the Water of Leith, which could be seen from the lower walks of the Cauldron. This pool went by the Scotch word of " cauldron "—hence the origin of the name of the School Wood, which also is still commonly spoken of by the boys as " The Kiddern."

Now let us pass from stone and mortar, and people the Insitution with inmates.

The Directors were happy in their choice of Mr Charles Marshall as the first Head Master ; and on the opening day of the School, 12th August, 1828, he had placed under his charge eleven boys and twenty-one girls, from six to eleven years of age, who had been passed by the Surgeon, Mr Henry Johnston, and were attired in the brown clothing of the Institution. Mr Marshall took a large-minded view of his duties, and, as a proof of his earnestness, we find that, in November, 1829, he was readily granted permission by the Directors to attend theological classes in the city. That he attended these with successful result is indicated by his office being soon after dignified as " House Governor and Chaplain."

In those early days the only other teacher in the School was the Matron—a post first held by Miss Helen Tait for two years—and her duties also included the superintendence of the domestic arrangements of the house, which were worked by a staff of nine servants, two nurses, and a porter, whose name was William Veitch.

Towards the end of the first school session the Directors issued invitations to the Lord Provost, the two Ministers of St. Cuthbert's, the Minister of St. Bernard's, Stockbridge (which church the children then attended), and the relatives of the children, to witness the Public Examination of the Pupils, on Monday, 6th July, 1829, at 12 o'clock.

The curriculum of the School was then " reading, grammar, accentuation, meanings, sacred biography, ancient and modern history, geography, writing, arithmetic, exercises in composition, drawing and singing."

The pupils passed, with flying colours, the examination to which they were subjected by the attending ministers ; and Mr Richard Mackenzie, Deputy Keeper of the Signet, expressed much satisfaction with the results, and approved of the conduct of the Master, the Matron, and the children. Several ladies inspected the specimens of needlework by the girls, to whom prizes were given. The children were also suitably rewarded for their other school-work with prizes, and were each given a small premium, and, last but not least, a Summer Vacation of three weeks.

D. M. Thomson.

## VANS HATHORN, TREASURER.

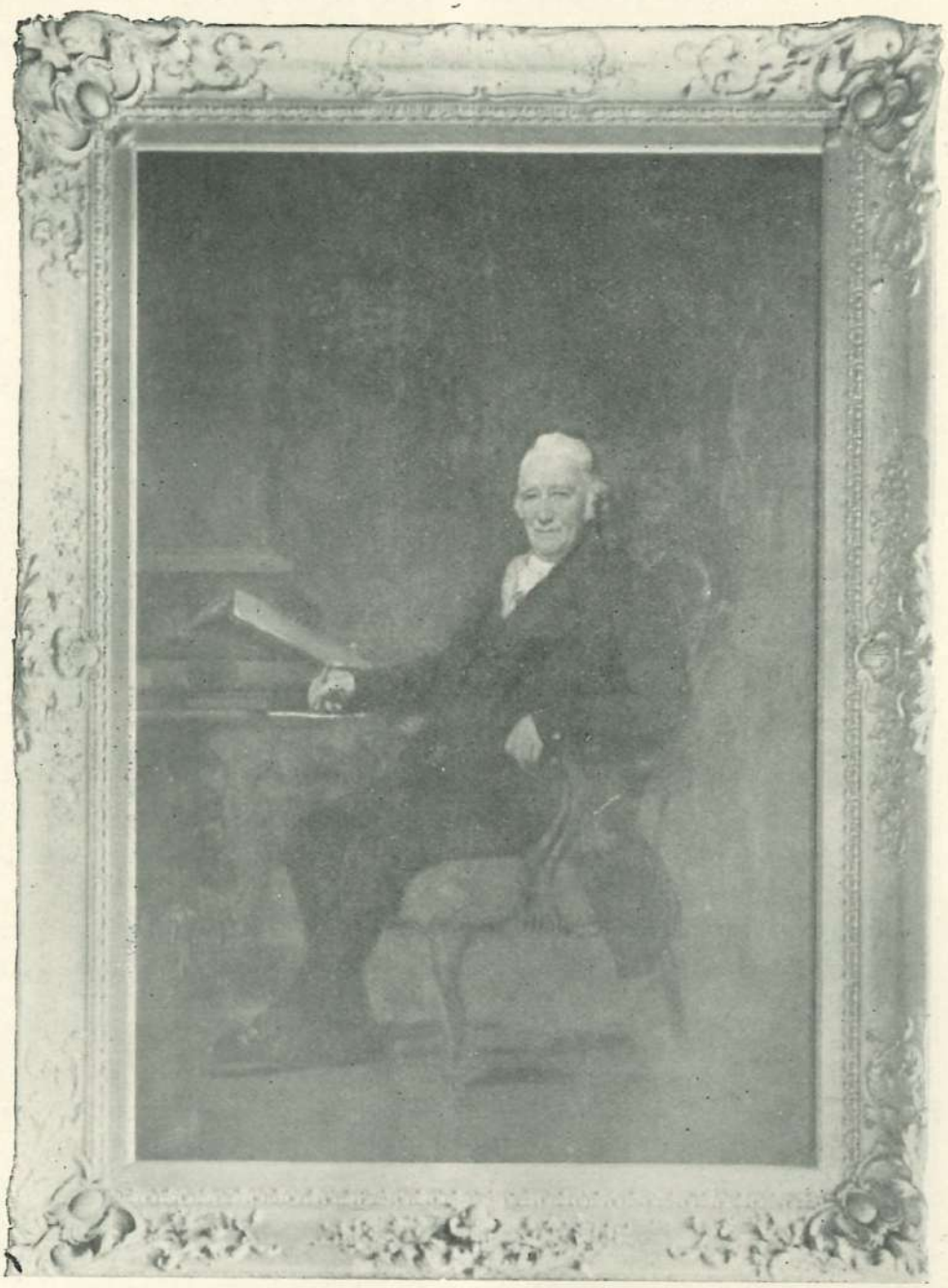
Every "Levite" must remember well the portrait of the old Treasurer which hangs in the place of honour in the Chapel of John Watson's. The picture, indeed, is closely associated with our earliest and latest recollections of the School. The kindly face of Vans Hathorn, looking down in quiet dignity from above the fireplace, seemed to welcome and comfort us upon our first arrival at the Institution, and, when our time to leave came round we felt, in parting from the picture, as though we bade goodbye to an old friend whose blessing we were carrying away with us out into the world. Truly, it may be said of the Treasurer that his spirit still dwells in the School he loved so well, and it is but fitting that some account of his life, and an appreciation of his work, should appear in these pages.

Vans Hathorn was the second son of Hugh Hathorn of Castlerigg in Wigtownshire, and was born in 1753. Like many more of the younger sons of the landed gentry, he was bred to the profession of the law. At that time the lawyers' offices in Edinburgh were situated in what is now known as the old town—indeed, there was then no new town—and were mostly within a short distance of the Parliament House. Mr Hathorn served his apprenticeship in the office of Thomas Tod, W.S., and at the age of 28 was admitted a Writer to the Signet. He was enrolled on 3rd July, 1781, and for the long period of 58 years he practised his profession, living latterly at 107 Princes Street, in a house which disappeared to make room for the Scottish Conservative Club.

In 1814 Mr Hathorn married Jane, eldest daughter of Sir John Dalrymple Hay of Park Place, Baronet. She bore him one son and two daughters. His son, who became a Captain in the Indian Army, lost his life at the hands of the mutineers at Bareilly, near Delhi.

Seven years after his marriage Mr Hathorn was appointed Factor to John Watson's Trust. At the time of his appointment he had reached the age of 68, a period of life when most men shrink from undertaking fresh work and responsibility. But the new Factor entered upon his duties with an ardent enthusiasm, which would have been praiseworthy in a man half his age. From the day he took up office, until the day he died, Vans Hathorn was undoubtedly the master mind and moving spirit of the John Watson's Trust. First of all, he turned his attention to the question of finance. Here he was in his element. With his ripe experience and by his skill and sagacity he was able, within four years after assuming office, to increase the funds from a comparatively small sum to over £112,000. And having provided the ways and means the Treasurer took care that the money was spent wisely and well.

An examination of the Minutes of the Trust shews how carefully Mr Hathorn went into the many questions and details which were necessarily involved in constructing and setting in motion the



VANS HATHORN,
Treasurer, 1821-1839.

machinery of a great educational endowment. To begin with, the very site of the School gave much anxiety, yet no one can visit the Institution at the present day without admiring the wisdom and foresight of those early Directors who chose such an appropriate place upon which to erect that handsome building which the Commissioners to the Signet in 1812 expressly desired " should correspond with the magnificence of the city."

But Mr Hathorn was not, it seems, altogether pleased with the architect's design for the School. He contended that the building was too low, and desired that it should be heightened by the addition of another storey. His advice, however, was not adopted. It is of interest, though, to record this fact, especially if by doing so some " Levites," who have joined the architectural profession, are induced to tell us whether the Treasurer was right or wrong in his criticism of Mr Burn's plans.

It is easy to imagine how delighted Mr Hathorn would be as he saw John Watson's endowment begin to take practical shape. The laying of the foundation stone in 1825 and the opening of the School in 1828 were occasions which must have filled his heart with joy. At the time of the latter event he had reached the age of 75, yet it was actually given to him to witness eleven full years of the active life of the School. And during that period he was ever ready to promote the Institution's interests in every way in his power. He spared himself in neither time nor trouble. The official records of the School contain many instances, not only of his wise administration but of acts of personal kindness and thoughtfulness shewn to the masters, the pupils and the domestic staff. It is impossible indeed, to read these without being impressed with the generous heart and kindly nature of the old Treasurer. Over and over again the Directors specially award their cordial and best thanks to him for his zealous attention to the affairs of the Institution. At the annual meeting on 18th January, 1836, a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr Hathorn, then a venerable old man of 83, for his long, able and conscientious services, and this vote, the Minute tells us, was carried by acclamation. Every Director at the meeting must have felt it a privilege to be present and to join in cheering the grand old man.

A year later, at a meeting on 9th December, 1837, the Directors, " impressed with feelings of deep gratitude to Mr Hathorn," asked him to sit to an eminent artist for a full length portrait, to be hung up in a conspicuous situation in the Institution. Sir John Watson Gordon, *P*.R.S.A., was the artist selected for the work, and the portrait was hung in the Chapel previous to the Examination in July, 1838. The honour thus paid to the Treasurer must have been peculiarly gratifying to him, for John Watson's had become very dear to him, specially in the closing years of his life.

In little more than a year after the presentation of his portrait Mr Hathorn passed to his rest, at the age of 86, full of years and full on honour. He died at his house in Princes Street on the morning of 8th October, 1839. On that day a special meeting of the Directors was summoned, at which the Deputy Keeper of the Signet paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Treasurer, and the funeral took place at two o'clock on 12th October, attended by the Directors, the Masters and the boys.

So closed the career of the most outstanding personality in connection with John Watson's Endowment. For nearly 60 years he had carried on business as a lawyer in the city of Edinburgh, earning the high respect and esteem of all who knew him. During twenty-six of these years he had devoted himself to furthering the interests of the Watson Trust. It is chiefly owing to his administrative genius and wise initiative that the School can boast of such a long and prosperous career, and many generations of " Levites " must ever feel that they owe a debt of deep gratitude to the memory of Vans Hathorn.

C. S. B.

## JOHN WATSON'S IN THE 30's.

How short was the duration of the first summer vacation of the School ! Even at a glance the three weeks then, and the four days allowed for Christmas holidays, throw much light upon the ideas held about education by our forefathers in the early part of the nineteenth century. And how truly monastic was the system of school life is further shown by the facts that parents were allowed to visit the children only on the first Monday of the month. Naturally, much attention was paid to the religious side of the children's training. These feelings influenced the Directors in having the School Chapel fitted up for daily worship by the pupils ; and to enable them to attend Church on Sunday, sittings were taken at the somewhat distant Chapel of Stockbridge. How characteristic also of these times was the practice of engaging the Stockbridge Precentor to teach the children church music twice a week at the School Thus he may be said to have been the first singing master.

The opening year of the 30's—the second session—saw the entrance into the Institution of sixteen new boys and girls, of from six to eleven years of age, who had passed the now historic ordeal, the new children's examination. This addition to the classes made it necessary that the Master and Matron should be relieved of some House duties, and, accordingly, an Assistant to the Matron was appointed. This lady was a Miss Magdalene Auld, a well-known name to many " Levites " yet, for she, in her first post, and latterly as Matron, served the Institution for nigh on forty years. But this long service is not unique in the School's annals, undeed, John Watson's has to consider itself fortunate in the many officials who have served it long and faithfully. All honour to them, both past and present.

On Miss Tait resigning the position of Matron in May, 1830, the duties were placed in the capable hands of Mrs Anne Molleson, who discharged them for many years.

Steady progress seems to have been made during the session in the teaching of the children and in the perfecting of the daily round

of duties, and it appears that the pupils made a "very creditable performance" on the second Vacation Day.

The third session, 1830-1831, is marked by several interesting introductions. The most important was the commencement of the roll of assistant-teachers, men who have, since their tenure of office at the Institution, in many cases attained eminence in the scholastic world.

The first name on the roll is Mr Thomas Craig, who held his appointment from October, 1830, to the beginning of 1832. His successor, Mr Samuel Gordon, was in office some eight months when his health broke down, and Mr William Hamilton became the next assistant. We have little or no further information about these teachers, so we pass on to record other changes which were taking place.

The first porter, William Veitch, who had previously been in a similar post at the Circus Place School, ended his duties at the Institution in November, 1830. The new porter was Alexander McRae, formerly a warder in the West Kirk Charity Workhouse. The name of Sandy McCraw, by which he was known, rings familarly in the ears of all to this day in its abbreviated form of "The Craw." He was porter for over a score of years, so we are hopeful that some reminiscences may yet be unearthed about this "character," for such we are sure he was.

Turning now to another side of school life, our attention is claimed by two new proposals of the Headmaster, Mr Marshall. It would appear that Latin was taught only in the better-class schools, and Mr Marshall, in his characteristic way, introduced the teaching of the language to the boys in this third session. Just as at the present day that popular author, Conan Doyle, writes detective stories to teach people the habit of observation, so Mr Marshall, with the same object in view, applied for and obtained a grant from the Directors to construct a Museum. By the aid of specimens of birds, animals, and minerals, some of which are to be found to-day in the cases in the new Library, he doubtless gave many useful object-lessons in natural history to the children.

By the fourth session the number of the School's inmates had rapidly grown to forty-six boys and forty-four girls, and in another year the total was increased to one hundred and twenty, a number which has always been about the maximum.

Several of the pupils had finished their schooling by this time, and it is interesting to note that they left the School immediately on attaining the age of fourteen, and were presented with the time immemorial gift of a Bible and £10. The present custom differs from the above in two points, which will be commented upon at another time.

In January, 1832, we meet with one of those incidents which so singularly happen. It appears that a Commissioner of the Signet applied for the admission of a boy named James Keith, who was a

relative of the founder, John Watson! He was, however, not admitted, as he was too old.

The subjects of gymnastics now came to be spoken about through an offer made by Sergeant-Major John Lawson of the Scottish Military and Naval Academy, to give his services to the Institution. It may be assumed that his offer was accepted, as it is reported that a Drill Sergeant was employed in the autumn of 1831, and duffle jackets were ordered for the boys' use while practising gymnastics. Possibly, also, the big and little " bars " at the top of the playground may have been put up at this time, and perhaps some appliances were also fitted in such a room as the Drill Room, although this room may have received its name only from the fact of the boys being drilled there on wet days.

The solitary situation of the Institution could not but react upon the feelings of the pupils, and we can sympathise with their excited interest when, in the year 1831, they saw another school, the Orphan Hospital, being erected at their very gates. The Hospital had been located for a century on land adjoining Trinity College Church, under the shadow of the Calton Hill, but it was found imperative to remove out of the crowded town on the ground of the pupils' health.

On the day of the foundation stone of the present Hospital being laid, namely, 23rd June, 1831, the authorities of the Institution did a graceful act in allowing the Hospital Directors to assemble in the School hall before the ceremony. But, under what dread circumstances was the next neighbourly act performed! In the beginning of 1832 Edinburgh was visited for the first time by Asiatic cholera, and its ravages were so severe that thousands died in the course of the year. The Board of Health arranged for the patients being housed in the Orphan Hospital, and half of the latter's girl pupils some fifty in number, were boarded in the Institution.

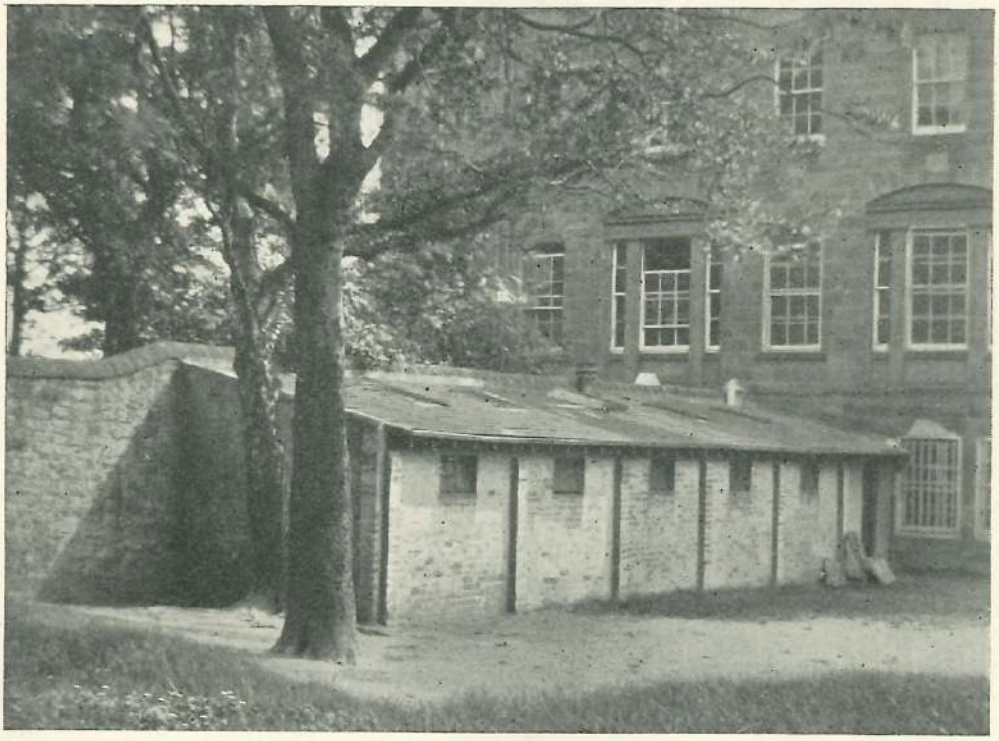
Happily John Watson's escaped additions to its death-roll, through such precaution being taken as that of allowing the pupils to attend only one Church service on Sunday, and of even debarring the relatives from witnessing the examination on the Vacation Day in July, 1832. We may perhaps conjecture from this that the pupils spent their summer holidays within the grounds of the Institution! The Orphan Hospital was formerly re-opened for its purpose in October, 1833.

Now let us turn our thoughts from this gloomy picture to one which will be of special interest to all " Levites " and present pupils. How important is the day of his or her fourteenth birthday in the life of each pupil! And in particular was it so in these far off times to a boy called Peter McOmish.* On that day in his life, 23rd November, 1832, an interesting ceremony took place in the Chapel when Mr Vans Hathorn, the Treasurer, announced, in the presence

* His name is the fourth on the School Register, and his number was A 4.

of the masters and pupils, that this boy had been, on the strong recommendation of Mr Marshall, appointed by the Directors an under-teacher on the School staff. In other words, he was the first master of the Third Section. This speaks highly for the boy's career as a scholar, during which he won eight prizes, and we shall show later how he acquitted himself as a master.

In the winter of 1833 the existence of the Institution and the Orphan Hospital, with no Church near them, was brought before the notice of the leaders of the Church of Scotland. How this would add " grist to the mill " of Dr. Chalmers, when advocating his Territorial Scheme ! The experience of 1832 led to the suggestion that a Chaplain might perform services on Sunday in the



THE LONG PLAYROOM,
NOW THE WOODWORK CLASSROOM.

Institution Chapel, at which the Orphan Hospital might also attend. At the time a missionary, the Rev. James Keith Hay, had recently come to the Water of Leith village, and his services were secured by the Institution. Mr Hay's labours in the village met with such success that, in 1835, Dr. Chalmers suggested to the proprietors in the district the building of a Chapel. In this way originated the Dean Parish Church. As John Watson's was the guiding hand in the " Dean's " affairs for many years, we shall later devote an article to the Church's history.

A most peaceful spot within the grounds of the Institution is the God's Acre which lies amidst the sheltering trees of the Cauldron.

" It is just," writes Longfellow, " to call the burial-ground by that ancient Saxon phrase. It consecrates." Oh, the pity of it, that graves should be within the School grounds ! As early as the first session the Directors required to set apart the spot, a girl having died ; and during subsequent years deaths were not infrequent. Our thoughts, or rather prejudices, mostly cling to the idea that these early times were Spartan to a degree. True, the spirit of the age was rigorous, but brighter than is at first imagined. To cite an instance. How enlightened and advanced was the plan of the School Surgeon in giving the boys, convalescent under his care, sea-bathing. Humanity, too, sympathised, warmly when a scholar breathed his last. The long distance, then, of the School from the city did in no way deter the Directors from attending the funeral with the Minister, Masters and pupils. They were true " gentlemen of the old school."

The full-length portrait of the Treasurer in the Chapel is an eloquent witness of the genial type of man who first ruled the destinies of the School. Of such, in particular, was the Headmaster, Mr Marshall. He ruled by scientific methods. As an instance, we read that he placed before the Directors a plan in a tabular form of the educational system at the School, and they readily gave a grant to add further to the instruction. With this he obtained mathematical instruments and the large globe which to-day stands in the Headmaster's room. At this time the Deputy Keeper himself remarked of Mr Marshall that it would be difficult to find his equal in these points of character, zeal, ability and good temper. The Directors, indeed, thought so highly of his services that, in April, 1835, they presented him with the sum of one hundred guineas as a mark of their approbation. They considered this not too rich a reward, his salary being somewhat on the scale of the village preacher in " The Deserted Village." The parallel is truer when the incomes of the assistant teachers are thought of. They were " passing rich with forty pounds a year." We learn this when Mr William Hamilton resigned in May, 1835. His successor was Mr Patrick Wilson, formerly an assistant in Newington Academy. He left in September, 1838, to become English Master at Leith High School. For the next seven years the Master of the Second Section was Mr Robert Richardson.

On his fourteenth birthday, it will be remembered, Peter McOmish became Master of the Third Section. What a responsibility to rest on such young shoulders, but with what enthusiasm and whole-hearted effort it was met ! So marked was his success that the Directors in August, 1835, appointed another boy, David Scruton Thomson, an under-teacher also. This confidence was well repaid. These boy teachers were diligent both in and out of the class hours, and they were encouraged by being given a separate room for their night studies. The Directors' interest was so stirred at these endeavours at self-education that they formed a Committee

to look into their powers of granting the pupils, when they left, bursaries to obtain further education of a higher order.

This era was a fruitful one for the ministry. Many a schoolmaster afterwards filled the pulpits of the land, and Peter McOmish directed his studies towards this end by attending the Humanity classes at Edinburgh University. Of another nature, however, were D. S. Thomson's studies. They were probably of foreign languages, for on leaving the School in the autumn of 1837 he eventually went to Leghorn, where the Treasurer heard that he was doing remarkably well.

Evidence of the kindly watchful eye of the Treasurer over McOmish's progress also is before us. In the winter of 1837 it came to his ears that the post of Usher to the Moffat Academy was vacant. Having advised McOmish to apply for this, the Treasurer and the Directors gave him a recommendation, which helped to win the day for him! Mr McOmish would carry away very kindly feelings towards the School, especially as he was presented with ten guineas as a mark of the Directors' opinion of his services. On following up his after-career, an old boy has kindly ascertained for us that Mr McOmish spent two sessions only at Moffat Academy, leaving to prepare for the Church.

In appointing a new Master to the Third Section, we notice how different was the method adopted seventy years ago from that of to-day. The candidate, Mr Edward Robertson, had to attend in person in the Third Section, and before a small group of the Directors and the Headmaster he examined the children. The result, we learn, was "highly gratifying." He occupied the post for two years, then leaving to attend college to become a clergyman.

It is worthy of record that a girl-pupil, named Helen Ogilvie, was in the spring of 1836 temporarily placed on the school-staff. This arose through an illness of Mrs Molleson making it needful that Miss Auld, the assistant matron, should have assistance, which the girl-pupil gave for about six months.

From this example of trustworthiness we now come to one of broadmindedness. In 1839 Mr Marshall had in the First Section a girl-scholar, Mary Glover, who was so remarkably clever that at the age of twelve she had mastered the school curriculum. Her mother asked for her removal, and, on Mr Marshall's ready recommendation, the Directors agreed to this, granting also a bursary.

It is interesting to note that Mr Marshall was an early pioneer of the present-day custom of holding the School Inspection on a separate day from that of the Prize-giving on the Vacation Day. Indeed, he was allowed to try this in 1838. But "the old order" survived other twenty years.

Still, this experiment illustrates the harmony between the Directors and the staff in the "reign" of Mr Marshall and Mrs Molleson. We have noted the esteem in which the former was held.

For Mrs Molleson it was no less ; as a proof we find that in January, 1839 the Directors presented her with the sum of fifty guineas.

But probably the chief factor in that early and critical period of the Institution's existence was that grand figure at the helm, the Treasurer, Mr Vans Hathorn. We shall devote our next article to a sketch of his life.

D. M. THOMSON.

## JOHN WATSON'S, 1840-1935.

In 1841 Mr Charles Marshall resigned the position of House Governor and was succeeded by Dr. (later Professor) Forbes. The article, " A Pillar of the Church," tells how Dr. Forbes helped the Dean Church in a period of difficulty and for a time acted as its minister. In 1850 the Rev. Andrew Wilson succeeded Dr. Forbes, and five years later the position was again vacant and the Rev. Fergus Jardine was appointed.

There were naturally many differences at John Watson's in the " Fifties " from the life there to-day. There was no recreation in the park and only in the playground were games allowed. On the other hand the boys were allowed to keep pets and guinea pigs, and rabbits and pigeons were reared. An amusing story of these days relates how one of the servants had a cat which was causing a very high death-rate among the boys' pets. Some of the boys decided that an end must be made of this slaughter of their most cherished possessions and devised a very effective trap. A tempting bait was placed in such a position that, as soon as it was touched, a heavy slab was dislodged and fell on the intruder. The scheme was successful, but, although the pets once more had peace, a different state of affairs arose in the servants' quarters.

In 1858 George Rowe was appointed Headmaster, and a great period in the School's history began. For thirty-nine years Mr Rowe was at the helm and the splendid records of the former pupils of his time bear testimony to his successful leadership. The beautiful memorial in the School Hall and the Rowe Memorial Medal for Scripture are marks of his former pupils' esteem. For many years he was an elder in the Dean Church, where there is a beautiful memorial tablet in the Watson's Gallery.

It was Mr Rowe who introduced the word " Levite " into the School, and so to him the Former Pupil Magazine owes its name. The word was applied to those who were in their last year at School. Since they were leaving they were " Le(a)vites " and it was a recognised custom to have a match between the " Levites " and the " House." Quite naturally the former term was soon also applied to the former pupils and gained a wider significance, since it embraced not only those who were leaving, but also those who had left. Thus our Magazine is " The Levite " and misconceptions arising from its name have raised many a smile. An old copy has

been seen in one section of a second-hand bookseller's stock under the heading " Religious Literature," and the present Editor was told quite seriously by a printer, who was giving an estimate for it for the first time, that he did not look like a Jew.

Mr Rowe was Headmaster until 1897, and during his thirty-nine years in charge many changes took place in the district surrounding the School. In 1865 Watson Villa, the Headmaster's house, was built. This was the first house to be erected in Ravelston Park, as the vacant space of land surrounding the School was called. From that date houses rapidly sprang up in this part and it is recorded that while some of them were being built a human skeleton, 8 feet long, was found. Palmerston Place had its inception at this time, for the construction of houses on the " Oyster Lane," as it was then called, began. It was so called by the John Watson boys, because oyster shells were strewn on the path. The new Belford Bridge was built in 1884, and a sum of £715 was contributed by the Directors towards its construction. The previous bridge was very old and for years carried the main traffic to Queensferry.

The School was fortunate in its Headmaster, and in 1869 the appointment of Miss Murray as Assistant Matron added another illustrious name in the annals of John Watson's. Miss Murray first entered John Watson's in 1856, as a pupil and she was dux-girl for two years. She left in 1864, but came back in 1868 to help during the illness of the Matron, Miss Auld. She did her work so well that John Watson's never let her go. Appointed Assistant Matron in 1869, she became Matron in 1875, and remained so until her death in 1917.

The School was bound to flourish under Mr Rowe and Miss Murray, but in 1897 Mr Rowe retired and the Directors had to find a successor able to maintain and advance farther the great work accomplished. Their choice fell upon Mr John Langhorne, a young Loretto Master, full of new ideas and enthusiasm. Athletics were developed greatly under his guidance and in 1903 at his suggestion, the Directors built a fine gymnasium. He introduced the School colours, maroon and blue, and a change in the school dress. The boys had previously worn rather clumsy long trouser suits and these were replaced by brown Norfolk suits. The basin room on the top flat was fitted out with baths in the early years of the twentieth century. Prior to this the small boys had their baths in the laundry.

It is readily seen that great improvements from the physical aspect came under Mr Langhorne's regime, but from an academic standpoint his work was equally successful. The School, however, was not up-to-date as far as the teaching of science was concerned. There was no laboratory and no scientific equipment. In Latin the John Watson boy could hold his own with anyone and would beat most boys of his own age.

Everyone knows what an anxious time 1914-18 was for all concerned. Miss Murray, the matron, must have had great difficulty

in planning the feeding of the pupils, and the Treasurer would be greatly perturbed by the rapid advance in the cost of living. These problems were overcome and the pupils themselves were quite unconscious of the trials and worries of those in charge of their welfare. That is a striking testimony to the splendid manner in which the Directors and School Officials carried the School through a very exacting period in its history.

The School had one very narrow escape from the horrors of war. It was on a Sunday night, 2nd April, 1916, after the pupils had all returned from church and were in bed. Zeppelins visited Edinburgh and an attempt was made to bomb the School, which had practically all its windows at the back blown in. So great was the impact that a huge stone was projected from the bed of the Water of Leith on to the roof of the High Room. This stone is in the School Museum. The dormitories were in a state of great excitement and, though the older pupils were unafraid, the younger ones in the " Conval " were in a state of terror and the monitor tried to quell their fears by saying it was only thunder and lightning.

Just a little over a year after the air raid John Watson's suffered a grievous loss in the death of Miss Murray, on Sunday morning, the 15th April, 1917. Miss Murray was 67 years old when she died, and 57 of them were spent in the School. The Miss Murray Memorial Fund raised by the Girls' Association is a tribute to the esteem in which she was held by all those who had the good fortune to be under her care. She was succeeded by another former pupil, Miss Gellatly, who had been Assistant Matron since 1898. Miss Gellatly, who is still Matron, has now given 37 years' splendid service to the School.

The former pupils did their part nobly from 1914-18, and the " School Roll of Honour," which we reprint here from the War Memorial Number of " The Levite," September, 1919, illustrates the splendid type of pupil produced by John Watson's. The list of War Honours is an imposing record for a school, whose roll of boys is usually about fifty.

## THE SCHOOL ROLL OF HONOUR.

### DEATHS ON SERVICE.

**Left**

1882 Gellatly, Frank L., Sergeant, 7th Cameron Highlanders.
1895 Kay, Captain J. Alex., Adjutant, 2/6th Lancashire Fusiliers.
1897 Meister, The Rev. C. G. C., M.C., C.F.
1898 Turner, Captain Gerald, 1/5th Gurkha Rifles.
1900 Brunton, David Todd, Corporal, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers.
1905 Illingworth, Lieut. Fred. W., R.A.F.
1906 Burnet, Lieut. Frank A., 8th Royal Scots.
1906 Cuthbert, 2nd Lieut. Charles L., 9th East Surrey Regiment.
1907 Collins, 2nd Lieut. L. Drummond, 13th Royal Scots.
1907 Aymer, Lieut. Alfred I., M.C., 1/152nd Indian Infantry.

**Left**

1907 Steven, Lieut. George Gordon, M.G.C., Heavy (Tank) Section.
1908 Brown, 2nd Lieut. Ian M. Knox, 11th Royal Scots.
1908 Fairweather, Eric, Second Officer, S.S. "Linwood."
1909 Maclean, 2nd Lieut. Callum A., 1st Cameron Highlanders.
1910 Yorston, J. Gifford, Private, 6th Cameron Highlanders.
1910 Brown, 2nd Lieut. Douglas Knox, M.C., M.G.C.
1910 Bayne, Edward R., Sergeant, 3/2nd Lovat Scouts.
1911 Guthrie, 2nd Lieut. William F., 9th Scottish Rifles.
1913 Latto, 2nd Lieut. Edward C., R.A.F.
1913 Macaulay, 2nd Lieut. John S., R.A.F.
1913 Sinclair, 2nd Lieut. H. Spencer, R.A.F.

## WOUNDED.

1901 Massie, Lieut.-Col. Ian W., M.C. and bar, C.R.E.
1902 Mearns, Ronald, Trooper, Royal Bucks Hussars.
1902 Wilson, Fred. W. B., K.O.S.B., attached Scottish Rifles.
1904 Cuthbert, Captain William W., 9th East Surrey Regiment.
1904 Marshall, Captain Reginald R., 3rd Cameron Highlanders.
1904 Macdonald, Lieut. Percy S., Gurkha Rifles.
1904 Christie, David, 2nd New Zealand Contingent.
1906 Linton, Captain Alec, M.C., 13th Royal Scots.
1909 Morison, 2nd Lieut. David M., 8th Border Regiment.
1909 Peddie, Arthur, Scots Guards.
1912 Prentice, William P., 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers.
1912 Thomson, Lieut. Charles F., M.C.
1914 Hastie, Alex. M., 3rd R. N. Division.

(List incomplete).

## WAR HONOURS.

**Left** **Member of the Most Eminent Order of the British Empire.**

1895 Jolly, John, Admiralty.

**Companion of the Most Eminent Order of India.**

1900 Jolly, Major Gordon G., I.M.S.

**Distinguished Service Order.**

1876 Balfour, Lieut.-Colonel Arthur M., R.F.A.
1898 Naismith, Major John O., R.F.A.

**Military Cross.**

1894 McNeil, Captain Robert P., S.A.M.C.
1897 Meister, The Rev. C. G. C., C.F.
1900 Archibald, Captain Mungo Tennant, 3rd Tank Corps.
1901 Massie, Lieut.-Colonel Ian W., C.R.E. and **Bar.**
1906 Linton, Captain Alec, 13th Royal Scots.
1907 Aymer, Lieut. Alfred I., 1/152nd Indian Infantry.
1910 Brown, 2nd Lieut. Douglas Knox, M.G.C.
1912 Thomson, Lieut. Charles F., High. Div. Signal C., R.E.

**Military Medal.**

1909 McNish, Joseph, 2nd Signal Div. 2nd Canadian Contingent.

**Meritorious Service Medal.**

1894 Ross, James, C.G.M.S., Labour Corps.

**Left**

**Mentioned in Dispatches.**

1882 Sinclair, Lieut.-Colonel W. Vernor, R.A.M.C.
1896 McNeil, Major Charles, R.A.M.C.
1897 Meister, The Rev. C. G. C., M.C., C.F.
1897 Mackenzie, Lieut.-Colonel W., Egyptian Labour Corps (three times).
1898 Naismith, Major John O., D.S.O., R.F.A.
1900 Illingworth, Capt. Arthur E., *Chevalier de l'Order de la Couronne, etc.*, R.A.F. (British and Belgian dispatches).
1905 Illingworth, Lieut. Fred. W., R.A.F.
1906 Linton, Captain Alec, M.C., 13th Royal Scots.
1906 Burnet, Lieut. Frank A., 8th Royal Scots.
1912 Thomson, Lieut. C. F., M.C., R.E. (two times).

**Order of the Nile.**

1897 Mackenzie, Lieut.-Colonel William, Egyptian Labour Corps.

**Chevalier de l'Order de la Couronne, Croix de Guerre, and Bar.**

1900 Illingworth, Captain Arthur, R.A.F.

**Medaille des Epidemics.**

Macgregor, Dr. Barbara, Scottish Women's Hospital, Salonica.

**Chevalier de l'Order de Lepold II.**

Tombeur, Madame (Mary White), Nursing Sister, F.A.N.Y.C.

## ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

* *Died on service.*

1869 Walker, Captain Michael W., Recruiting Officer for Fife.
1871 Finlayson, Lieut.-Colonel Robert A., C.M.G., 4th Royal Sussex Regiment
1876 Balfour, Lieut.-Colonel Arthur M., D.S.O., R.F.A.
Morison, Captain Arthur E., R.A.M.C.
1877 Donaldson, Lieut.-Colonel James, D.S.O., 19th Royal Scots.
1878 Park, Captain Fred R., attached to Royal Navy.
1880 Taylor, Dr. James A., Newfoundland Forestry Camp.
Waterstone, J. Stuart, No. VI., St. John's Ambulance Brigade.
1881 Watson, Dr. W. M. Crawford, Furness Auxiliary Hospital.
1882 Sinclair, Lieut.-Colonel W. Vernor, 2/2nd London Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.
Macgregor, Captain A. V., i/c Military Ambulance, West Hartlepool.
* Gellatly, Frank L., Sergeant, 7th Cameron Highlanders.
1883 Crawford, Gerald W., Sergeant, 16th Royal Scots.
Saxby, T. Edmonston, F.R.F.P.S., R.W.O., Admiralty Surgeon and Naval Agent.
Saxby, Horace D., Sergeant, South African Police.
1884 Boyd, Captain John J., R.A.M.C.
1885 Findlay, Lieut. John S., R.A.M.C.
Hodge, George C., Canadian Corps Signalling School, B.E.F.
1886 Hamilton, The Rev. D. G., M.A., The Scottish Churches Huts.
1887 Dennison, Jerome, 4th South African Horse.
1889 Vost, Lieut. Anthony, R.A.M.C.
1891 McRae, 2nd Lieut. Duncan, 9th West Riding Regiment.
1892 Stewart, Captain Jas. B. (17th Royal Scots), Staff Captain, War Office.
Henderson, Robert, 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles.
1893 Thomson, David M., 2/7th Black Watch.
Grant, Henry K., R.G.A.

**Left**

1893 JOLLY, Major GEORGE A., Indian Medical Service.
1894 HERBERT, GEORGE S., L.-Corporal, 20th T. W. Bn. Scottish Rifles.
McNEIL, Captain ROBERT P., M.C., South African Medical Corps.
ROSS, JAMES, C.Q.M.S., M.S.M. Labour Corps.
BURNIE, WILLIAM, Royal Engineers.
*1895 KAY, Captain JOHN ALEX., Adjutant, 2/6th Lancahsire Fusiliers.
FYALL, ALBERT E., Corporal, 82nd Canadian Exped. Force.
MACCALLUM, Captain ARCH. W., Signal Corps, U.S.A. Army.
1896 ROSS, DANIEL S., 11th Scottish Rifles.
McNEIL, Major CHARLES, R.A.M.C.
FEARNSIDE, PERCY H., R.N.V.R.
*1897 MEISTER, The Rev. C. G. C., M.C., C.F.
MACQUEEN, J. NORMAN R., King Edward's Horse.
MACKENZIE, Lieut.-Colonel., Order of the Nile, W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
PEART, DONALD A., Assist. Paymaster, R.N.
1898 NAISMITH, Major JOHN A., D.S.O., R.F.A.
SCOTT, Lieut.-Colonel JOHN, R.A.M.C.
ARCHIBALD, ROBERT, Corporal, Canadian Forestry Corps.
* TURNER, Captain GERALD, 1/5th Gurkha Rifles.
1899 MACLEAN, DONALD, Staff Sergeant, 4th Mounted Brigade, G.S.W.A.
RANKIN, The Rev. OLIVER S., C.F.
BURNET, Captain DAVID S., 8th att. 1st Royal Scots.
1900 ARCHIBALD, Captain M. TENNENT, M.C., 3rd Tank Corps.
ST CLAIR, SIDNEY, Sergeant, 4th Royal Scots.
JOLLY, Captain (acting Major) GORDON G., C.I.E., Indian Medical Service.
GRAHAM, THOMAS, Royal Corps of Naval Constructors.
* BRUNTON, DAVID TODD, Corporal, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers.
ILLINGWORTH, Captain ARTHUR E., *Chevalier de l'Order de la Couronne, Croix de Guerre, and Bar*, R.A.F.
1901 MASSIE, Lieut.-Colonel IAN W., M.C. and Bar, C.R.E., 38th Welsh Division.
RITCHIE, Lieut. ERIC, 5th King's African Rifles.
CUTHBERT, Captain FRED, Trinity House Pilot.
1902 MEARNS, RONALD, Royal Bucks Hussars.
WILSON, FRED W. B., K.O.S.B., att. Scottish Rifles.
1903 BARCKLEY, 2nd Lieut. ARTHUR E., R.H.A.
APEDAILE, LEO B., R.A.M.C.
GALLAWAY, 2nd Lieut. H. D. McRAE, R.A.S.C.
1904 MASSIE, ANDREW B., Sergeant, South African Engineers.
ILLINGWORTH, Captain HAROLD E., 18th Canadian Infantry.
FISHER, Lieut. ERNEST J., R.A.M.C.
CUTHBERT, Captain WILLIAM W., Adjutant, R.A.F. School of Technical Training.
ALEXANDER, Captain W. ALISTER, R.A.M.C.
LINDSAY, ARTHUR J., 60th Canadian Riflemen.
MARSHALL, Captain REGINALD R., Adjutant, 3rd Cameron Highlanders.
MACDONALD, Lieut. PERCY S., Gurkha Rifles.
CHRISTIE, DAVID, 2nd New Zealand Contingent.
1905 ROBERTSON, JOHN, Corporal, 3rd Gordon Highlanders.
CAMPBELL, 2nd Lieut. JAMES T., 7th Middlesex Regiment.
* ILLINGWORTH, Lieut. FRED W., R.A.F.
McINTOSH, CHAS. D., Chief Yeoman, U.S.N.R.F.
CRAWFORD, The Rev. WM., B.D., Y.M.C.A., France.
1906 LINTON, Captain ALEX, M.C., G.S.O., i/c Censorship German Press in British Zone.
DURNO, LESLIE, Sergeant, 23rd Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.
* CUTHBERT, 2nd Lieut. CHARLES, 9th East Surrey Regiment.
WELCH, HENRY, 6th Cameron Highlanders.

**Left**

*1906 BURNET, Lieut. FRANK A., 8th Royal Scots.
*1907 COLLINS, 2nd Lieut. L. DRUMMOND, 13th Royal Scots.
*1907 AYMER, Lieut. ALFRED I., M.C., 1/152nd Indian Infantry.
ALEXANDER, Captain PETER, Siege Battery, R.G.A.
* STEVEN, Lieut. GEORGE GORDON, M.G.C., Heavy (Tank) Section.
RODGER, Lieut. JOHN R., R.A.F.
PATTULLO, G. LEONARD S., Sergeant, 1/1st Scottish Horse.
BAYNE, Lieut. JAMES C., Siege Battery, R.G.A.
CRAWFORD, Captain JOHN A., R.A.M.C.
GIBSON, J. RUSSELL, Lothian and Border Horse.
*1908 BROWN, 2nd Lieut. IAN M. KNOX, 11th Royal Scots.
JOHNSTON, FRANK G., R.G.A.
* FAIRWEATHER, ERIC, Second Officer, H.M.H.S. "Salta."
1909 MORISON, 2nd Lieut. DAVID M., 8th Border Regiment.
GIBB, WILLIAM P., Corporal, *Medaille d'Honneur avec Glaives*, R.A.S.C.
MUIRHEAD, Surgeon-Lieut. ALES. J., Royal Navy.
PEDDIE, ARTHUR, Scots Guards.
MCNISH, JOSEPH, 2nd Signal, Division, 2nd Canadian Contingent.
* MACLEAN, 2nd Lieut. CALLUM A., 1st Cameron Highlanders.
*1910 YORSTON, J. GIFFORD, 6th Cameron Highlanders.
* BROWN, 2nd Lieut. DOUGLAS KNOX, M.C., M.G.C.
MENZIES, Lieut. THOMAS J., 14th A. and S. Highalnders.
PATTULLO, C. SYDNEY, R.F.A.
STEWART, Captain CHARLES, R.G.A.
THOMSON, Lieut. GEORGE G., R.A.F.
* BAYNE, EDWARD R., Sergeant, 3/2nd Lovat Scouts.
RAE, ERIC H., 4th Scottish Rifles.
1911 MACPHERSON, 2nd Lieut. D. ROGER, R.F.A.
* GUTHRIE, 2nd Lieut. WILLIAM F., 9th Scottish Rifles.
BOSWELL, 2nd Lieut. KENNETH C., Siege Battery, R.G.A.
AITKEN, JOHN G., Scottish Horse, att. Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.
1912 PRENTICE, WILLIAM P., 1st K.O.S.B.
THOMSON, Lieut. CHARLES F., M.C., High. Div. Signal Co., R.E.(T.)
MOWAT, JAMES, 2/1st H.C.B., Black Watch.
*1913 LATTO, Lieut. EDWARD C., R.A.F.
MACKENZIE, Lieut. IAN R., R.A.F.
CONNOCHIE, Lieut. CHARLES, R.A.F.
* MACAULAY, 2nd Lieut. JOHN S., R.A.F.
* SINCLAIR, 2nd Lieut. HERBERT S., R.A.F.
CRAIG, Lieut. ARCH., 11th Gurkha Rifles.
GIBB, JOHN P., Chief Motor Mechanic, Coastal Motor Boat.
NASH, THOMAS A., 14th H.L.I., att. 1/7th Scottish Rifles.
TAYLOR, RANALD E. S., L.-Corporal, 5th Royal Scots.
1914 ADAM, 2nd Lieut. IAN S., R.A.F.
BALFOUR, ARTHUR J. W., L.-Corporal, 51st Gordon Highlanders.
GILLANDERS, JAMES, Cadet, R.M.S.P. "Chignecto."
JACKSON, R. CECIL, Sergeant Observer, R.A.F.
SHOWERS, EDEN, 52nd Gordon Highlanders.
GARSON, JOHN, H.M.S. "Flying Breeze."
HASTIE, ALEX. M., 3rd R.N. Division.

Miss EDITH ANDERSON, Victoria Station, London.
Miss MURIEL ARCHIBALD, V.A.D.
Miss FRANCES BRYCE, V.A.D.
Mrs CHAMBERLAIN (Flora McRae), Motor Ambulance.
Nurse IRIS CLARKE, Bradford War Hospital.
Miss JEAN COLVILLE, Censorship Department, London.
Miss ADA HAIN, V.A.D.

**Left**

1914 Sister ANNIE JENKINS, Bangour War Hospital.
Miss MARTHA LOCKYER, Welfare Supervisor, Newcastle and Rosyth.
Mrs MAIR (Dora List), No. 1 Base Hospital, Wynberg, So. Africa.
Miss HARRIET MCFARLANE, King George's Hospital, London.
Dr BARBARA MACGREGOR, Epidemic Medal, Scottish Women's Hospital, Salonika.
Mrs ELLIOT RODDICK (M. Scott), Unit Administrator, Q.M.W.A.A.C.
Miss MARIE THOMSON, Women's Land Army.
Madame TOMBEUR (Mary White), *Chevalier de l'Order de Leopold II.* Nursing Sister, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps.
Miss WINIFRED WILSON, Munitions.

In the School Chapel there is a beautiful Memorial to the Fallen. A Committee of Former Pupils, composed of Messrs D. M. Thomson, W. Muirhead and J. Ross, after a sum of £75 had been raised, commissioned Messrs A. Kirkwood & Son, Edinburgh, to execute the memorial brass. It bears the names of the Fallen, the year they left School, a simple ornamentation of thistles, monograms of the Old Boys' and Girls' Clubs and the text, "Greater Love hath no man than this." The memorial measures three feet by two feet.

After the war was over further developments took place in the School. The Old Boys' Club had up to 1921 awarded a prize for gymnastics, but on Victoria Day, 1921, the first School Sports were held. The following year the F.P. Club presented a Sports' Championship Cup to the School.

Another change was made in the dress of the boys, for the knickerbockers were replaced by shorts.

In the summer holidays of 1924 electric light was installed in the School, and when the pupils returned from their holidays they found a great change from the dingy ill-lighting of the gas jets.

In the summer holidays of 1925, Mr Langhorne died suddenly and the School lost another great Headmaster. The former pupils of his time have shown their appreciation of his splendid service to the School by the handsome memorial in the School Hall, and also by presenting each year a Langhorne Memorial Medal for Latin.

Major J. O. Naismith was appointed successor to Mr Langhorne, and for the first time a former pupil was placed in charge of the School. With Miss Gellatly as Matron, the boys and girls were now in the hands of those who had been pupils like themselves and who consequently were bound to know in what ways their life at School could be improved. Under Major Naismith the School has been reorganised and many great improvements effected. Specialist teachers have taken the place of teachers of general subjects and science was for the first time properly introduced into the curriculum in 1926. The Second Section Room was equipped as a laboratory through the generosity of Mr Kirkpatrick, W.S., a Director.

Many valuable Scholarships have been gained by pupils of Major Naismith, and the fact that six John Watson boys have been

Miss W. Gellatly,
The Present Matron.

at Fettes at the same time is a great tribute to the tuition of Major Naismith and his assistants.

The School dress has been altered and to-day the boys are dressed in grey tweed suits and the bigger boys have long trousers. The Balmoral is only worn on Sundays, and during the week a royal

MAJOR J. O. NAISMITH, D.S O., M.A.,
The Present Headmaster.

blue cap with a maroon monogram is worn. Smart blue raincoats take the place of the old Inverness capes and soft collars are worn on week-days.

On 19th July, 1928, the Centenary of the School was celebrated and three handsome gifts were made to the School, one by the W.S. Society, one by Miss Helen Munro, and one by the Former Pupils.

These are recorded on other pages in this Magazine and require no account in this article.

The year after the Centenary John Watson's came under the review of the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Commission for the fifth time. In 1864, 1872, 1878 and 1882 inquiries had been held and John Watson's had come through them without any alteration in character. Once again, the School has come through the latest inquiry without any essential change in its constitution. The name of the School has been altered to " John Watson's School " and the word " Institution " has been dropped. The Commission, however, demanded that the Staff be placed under a Superannuation Scheme as a condition of continuance and for this purpose the Directors raised over £2000 from the W.S. Society, and the Former Pupils have started an F.P. School Fund to help the Superannuation Scheme and in the future to assist the Directors to meet the growing costs of modern education.

The teaching of woodwork has been added to the curriculum this year, 1935, and the Long Play Room has been fitted out as a Woodwork Section.

Heating had to be installed to satisfy Education Department requirements, and it is obvious that additional expenditure has been involved. Salaries have increased and the teachers will now receive in addition security for retirement.

The School has a grand record of work well done and it is to be hoped that the future will be as glorious. May generous benefactors increase the Endowment and ensure that finance will in no way hamper the future success of John Watson's School.

## JOHN WATSON'S AND MR ROWE (1858-1897).

John Watson's Institution is the only school of its kind existing in Scotland at the present day. It has not always been so. One readily recalls the names of kindred schools located in different parts of the country, but which in the year 1870, that dividing line in Scottish educational history, were changed into day-schools. John Watson's, however, has through all the changing course of years held on its way, working out its destiny, quietly fulfilling the purpose of its foundation. Its pupils acknowledge, with true thankfulness, that their lives know not happier, nor more untroubled years than those passed under the wise governance of its Cabinet. And of that inner circle one can, with all due respect, say that there was none greater than he who was their servant, our revered Master, George Rowe.

Mr Rowe was, by birth, a Cornishman. His native town was revealed to his pupils when their geography lesson touched upon the English Cathedral towns. Truro would be named, and then Mr Rowe would smilingly ask " And for what else is Truro famous ? "

The expected answer was "Your birthplace, sir!" There he was born on 17th January, 1829. His father was a man of original thought and character. Of scholarly habits, he engendered the same instincts in his sons, George and Thomas, while they attended Truro Grammar School. Few fathers then thought, as he did, of taking their sons for long walks into the country and, according to an amusing remark of his eldest son, improving the shining hour by drilling them in Latin grammar! Or in the early mornings in summer he would induce his boys to read classics, not usually found in their companions' hands. These were the days when the Waverley Novels first appeared! Happily his sons had a natural love for book lore, and, speaking now of his son George, we have traced to the source that culture of mind which, in the eyes of his pupils, was one of the strong points of his personality. The good courage, also, with which he walked through life was in part due to that happy sense of humour which he inherited on his mother's side.

After being a grammar-school boy for some years, Mr Rowe became a pupil at the Taunton Wesleyan College. Time sped onwards, and at seventeen years of age, Mr Rowe developed from the taught into the teacher. His first post was that of assistant master at an old established school at Penzance. Six years later he joined the staff of New Kingswood College at Bath. That school might be called another John Watson's. In it 126 sons of clergymen (of ages varying from eight to fourteen and fifteen) were boarded and educated. The two schools are also somewhat alike in that, as Mr Rowe himself wrote in our first Number, the names of "Levites" and "Manassites" were used by the college pupils to distinguish the leaving boys from those who remained. Mr Rowe spent six happy and useful years at this college. There, as everywhere, his ideal was duty in whatever shape it came to him, though he never thought of claiming credit for it. He had his reward ere long from an unexpected quarter.

In the summer of 1858 a friend in Edinburgh, Dr. Bedford of Heriot's, advised Mr Rowe to apply for the post, then vacant, of Headmaster of John Watson's Institution.

At that time a strong hand was needed at the helm. The School had not recovered from the inroad made upon its teaching staff in 1850, when Dr. (afterwards Professor) Forbes, the Headmaster, and Mr John Blacklock, his chief assistant, both left to take up similar posts at Donaldson's Hospital. In the short ensuing period of eight years the Institution saw two headmasters and seven assistant masters come and go. To check this continual change, the Directors decided upon, what was then, a new and bold departure; they invited applications from married couples for the posts of Headmaster and Matron respectively. But the applicants did not reach the standard required. Another plan was then tried. The headmastership had hitherto been occupied by ministers or probationers; the post was now thrown open to laymen.

> There is a tide in the affairs of men,
> Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.

So it is with a corporate body. When the application from Mr Rowe for the post now came to hand, two of the Directors, Mr James Hope, D.K.S., the Chairman, and Mr James Rose, W.S., were at once deputed to interview Mr Rowe and his superiors. In these days the stage-coach journey to Bath, upon which they set

GEORGE ROWE, B.A.,
Headmaster, 1858-1897.

out, was adventurous enough, Mr Rowe has said in humorous vein, to cause one beforehand " to set one's house in order ! " Upon their arrival at the city of Beau Nash, the two Directors were conducted by the Headmaster of New Kingswood College through all the school, witnessing, in their progress, Mr Rowe engaged in his duties as senior resident teacher. According to the Institution's minutes (of which, by the courtesy of the Treasurer, we are able to give liberal extracts throughout this memoir), the Secretary of the College Trustees and the late Governor's widow both spoke in very high terms of Mr Rowe's work when he took charge of the School for six or seven months during an interregnum, between the death of the former Governor and the appointment of his successor. They added that Mr Rowe was " peculiarly well fitted not only for teaching children, but looking after them and keeping them in order and . . . . . all connected with the School would regret much his leaving it, and all spoke highly of his moral and religious character." The Headmaster said " that there could be no doubt about Mr Rowe's qualifications as a scholar and he had never seen or heard of any disagreement between Mr Rowe and any of the teachers." Then came the final test. The two Directors finished a busy day by having " a long conversation with Mr Rowe in the evening, and they were pleased with his views and whole conversation."

With great confidence in the result of their mission, Mr Hope and Mr Rose travelled back to Edinburgh ; and on 9th August, 1858, Mr Rowe, then a young man of twenty-nine, was appointed Headmaster of the Institution. His " house " was, at first, under the School roof, where he occupied the rooms now known as the Headmaster's room and the Library.

From that memorable day John Watson's was to Mr Rowe his " whole existence." " Blessed is the man," says Carlyle, " who finds his work, but far more so he who finds it in his youth." When Mr Rowe entered upon the sphere of his new labours, many problems awaited him which required delicate handling, the most urgent being the gathering around him of an efficient staff.

The first appointment made by the Directors was the promotion of Miss Auld, the assistant matron since 1830, to the post of Matron. Her assistant was, at first, Miss Kirby, and later, another former girl pupil, Miss Murray, the present esteemed Matron.

More in Mr Rowe's province was the selection of the teaching staff. How admirable a judge he was of men is borne out to-day by " a cloud of witnesses " among the old pupils as well as by the creditable positions afterwards held by most of the seventeen resident masters chosen by him during thirty-nine years of office. We name a few of the masters best known to the pupils :—Peter Mackinlay, M.A., who became Rector of the Church of Scotland Training College, Edinburgh ; William Calder, Headmaster of Hutcheson's Hospital, Glasgow, later a master at the Edinburgh Institution ; John Robson, M.A., ex-father of the staff of George Watson's ;

William L. McDougall, M.A., Parish Minister of Orwell, Kinross-shire ; William Jenkins, M.A., F.E.I.S., Headmaster of James Gillespie's School ; James A. Clement, Headmaster, Belvedere School ; and John Dickson, Inland Revenue Office, Edinburgh. And of non-resident teachers :—Miss Legat, Jules Kunz, Joseph Geoghegan, J. A. Moonie, Robert Frier, J. G. Atkinson, senior and junior, C. and F. Laubach, and Sergeant Donnelly.

Of the spirit which actuated our Master in these early days, an old scholar of fifty years ago bears witness in these words " I remember Mr Rowe as being full of energy and as having what I now realise to have been the spirit of Dr. Arnold of Rugby. Certainly there was little of the Scotch dominie about him." Well equipped though he was for his onerous post, Mr Rowe graduated as Bachelor of Arts at London University two years after he became Headmaster.

With Mr Rowe the children's well-being was ever a vital point. How natural it seems that among his first acts for their benefit he should reorganise the School Library, with a varied selection of standard books ; also that, by borrowing a leaf out of his father's book, he should arrange for the masters taking the children walks into the country, then quite at their gates, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and teaching them botany as they strolled along. The homes also gradually began to know the children more frequently at the end of the week. The saying of the poet " our little systems have their day " gains illustration by the first Vacation Day of Mr Rowe's reign. It saw a novel change from the time honoured Scottish method of the parish minister and the dominie holding a public examination of the scholars in their class-work, followed by the distribution of prizes. Mr Rowe's model of that far-off Day's proceedings has endured to the present day.

While he did not favour the public oral examinations in the Chapel, holding that " the children are distracted " by the circumstances of the Day, Mr Rowe was first in the field when the University of Edinburgh decided to follow the Oxford movement by holding annual examinations for school pupils and granting Junior and Preliminary Certificates. In urging the scheme to the Treasurer, Mr Rowe said, as a last word, that " the possession of such certificates would show the soundness of the training at John Watson's Institution." He had his way. In 1866, three boys and a girl went up for the first examination held, all passed, two securing first-class certificates and two " seconds." These were the forerunners of many brilliant successes, which more than once attracted the personal notice of the Principal of the University. In 1867 our dux-boy took 1st place in the Juniors ; in 1871, one of our girls obtained the highest number of marks in mathematics ; in 1880, a young boy secured a high place in the first class of the Juniors ; and in 1887 our quintette, remarked upon as being the youngest of eighty-three candidates, all passed, two taking 7th and 26th places respectively. But one does scant justice in singling out years where almost every

year had its quota of honours. It is all the more to be regretted that since the Locals yielded place to the present system of Leaving Certificates, John Watson's has not the opportunity of testing its mettle beyond securing foundations.

History has not yet revealed the influence for good which John Watson's has exerted in the creation of the beautiful Ravelston suburb of Edinburgh. However, in the year 1865, when Mr Rowe had thoughts of " hearth-building," the Directors sought for a site upon which to build a house for him. Ground situated at the southern extremity of the School itself first claimed notice. Eventually the present handsome dwelling house, known as Watson Villa, was the first house to be erected in Ravelston Park. Mr Rowe entered it upon his marriage to Miss Mary Bladgburn, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This union was tragically short, the lady dying three days before the second birthday of their only daughter. For the seven years following his household was under the kindly charge of his eldest sister, whose loving regard for his memory has, in her present deep sorrow, enabled us to tell so much of her brother's boyhood.

Shortly after Mr Rowe came to Edinburgh, he made the acquaintance of his nearest neighbour at Stewart Villa in Queensferry Road. This friend was Mr George Ogilvie, better known as the genial Doctor of George Watson's. He was then the Headmaster of Daniel Stewart's. A warm friendship quickly sprang up between the two. The virtue of early rising appealing to both, they 'stablished a daily custom of going together for a walk in the early morning. These rambles, like the morning air, never lost their freshness, the interests they had in common were many, both were Masters of kindred schools, both Elders of the same Church. Each saw the best in the other, the wide knowledge of books which, in their talks, Mr Rowe unconsciously showed he possessed was a constant wonder to, and left a lasting impression upon, his companion. Walking was our Master's favourite out-door recreation. The writer's last memory of him was a delightful walk which he, then nearly eighty, took us all round the Edwardian walls of Berwick. Pupils of the 'sixties tell that he sometimes tried his running powers with them or joined in the opening movements of a game. But athletics, as known by the work of the Chiefs of Scottish public schools, was not his forte. As he wrote to us in 1900, " I was born too early in the century, before so much time and attention were bestowed on that important branch of education."

With the passing years the older friendship between Dr. Bedford and our Master never lost its place. The Doctor was almost the first friend to whom Mr Rowe told the news of his approaching second marriage. This happy event took place on 27th April, 1876, when Mr Rowe married Margaret Frances, the elder daughter of Alderman Bogue, Mayor of Berwick-on-Tweed. The newer happiness of his home life was the School's gain. It gave fresh

THE ROWE MEMORIAL.

vitality to his energies, soon to be heavily drawn upon when Education Bills called upon him as a witness. Like the School, he was in the prime of life, both were forty-seven years old. This period was distinguished for the exceptional soundness of his training. It has added more laurels to the School's renown, and more professors, ministers, doctors and army officers to the pupils' ranks, than any other similar period in the School's history. The succeeding and last generations of his pupils have not lagged behind, but they are

of a different bent of mind. The services in the East, the Colonies and our Master's own profession know them well.

It is, however, to a small group of " Levites " of the early 'eighties that his other pupils owe a debt of gratitude for leading the movement which resulted in the well deserved honour paid by " his family " to their esteemed teacher and friend on 5th January, 1895. An able account of that red letter day has, from the pen of Professor Stevenson, appeared in *The Levite* so recently and, as viewed to-day, so opportunely, that we pass on to another event of outstanding importance. It was on 7th July, 1897, that Mr Rowe, in his 69th year, ended his reign at John Watson's. This action was dictated by his sole arbiter, the inner voice of duty. Rather than cling to office with diminishing powers, and do hurt to the goodly edifice reared by his own hands, he chose the better part. Into his retirement he carried with him the well earned thanks of the Directors and the abiding affection of the staff, and pupils, old and young.

But the School was ever his family. When his boys and girls began to band themselves together into bodies politic, they found in him a true-hearted supporter, one whose unostentatious liberality was so frequent as to be, in our experience, sometimes embarrassing. Many an old pupil present at the first revived School Reunion in December, 1899, will long treasure the memory of a touching scene which occurred in the Chapel during the last moments of the evening. After the song " Auld Lang Syne," they will vividly recall our old Master standing in the centre of a large circle of his pupils, with hands linked, trying to give adequate expression to his pent-up feelings. It is good, taking the counsel of Richter, to call up in our darkest moments the memory of our brightest. The good health, which Mr Rowe cared for as a birthright, was his for several years more, and enabled him to enjoy, with his loving helpmate, peaceful length of days. Gradually his energies lost their spring, and the last days came. When the news had travelled that our Master had passed peacefully away, his pupils felt that a tender but strong link with their youth was severed. And to his bereaved widow and relatives there goes out a sympathy as sincere as it is universal, and a sense of sharing in a common loss.

What were the constituents which made up the precepts and example of our Master's life? He was not a genius in the popular sense of the word, his seal was thoroughness, not flights of sublimity ; his chief asset was character, a thoroughly cultivated will, which is needful in any man, and more so in a guide of the young ; his religious teaching was without the slightest taint of scepticism ; his self-respect made injustice foreign to his nature just as courtesy was the hall-mark of the man ; his modesty was of a quality not readily understood by the occasional visitor, say, relatives of pupils, but its true worth was known and appreciated by his boys and girls. How else was it possible that he held so firmly the respect and regard of every inmate of the House? Many " Levites " will have witnessed,

as we did in the 'nineties, the magnetic influence exerted upon the players during our matches or *our* Internationals, "Levites" *v.* House, when word was passed along the line "Roux is looking on, you men!" Their flagging pace seemed to lose its weariness as if by magic. To earn his respect and serve their House with a whole heart seemed to go from, and to return manifold to him, whose natural ideal was duty. Such was he: his work is done. Our Master now has his reward.

D. M. THOMSON.

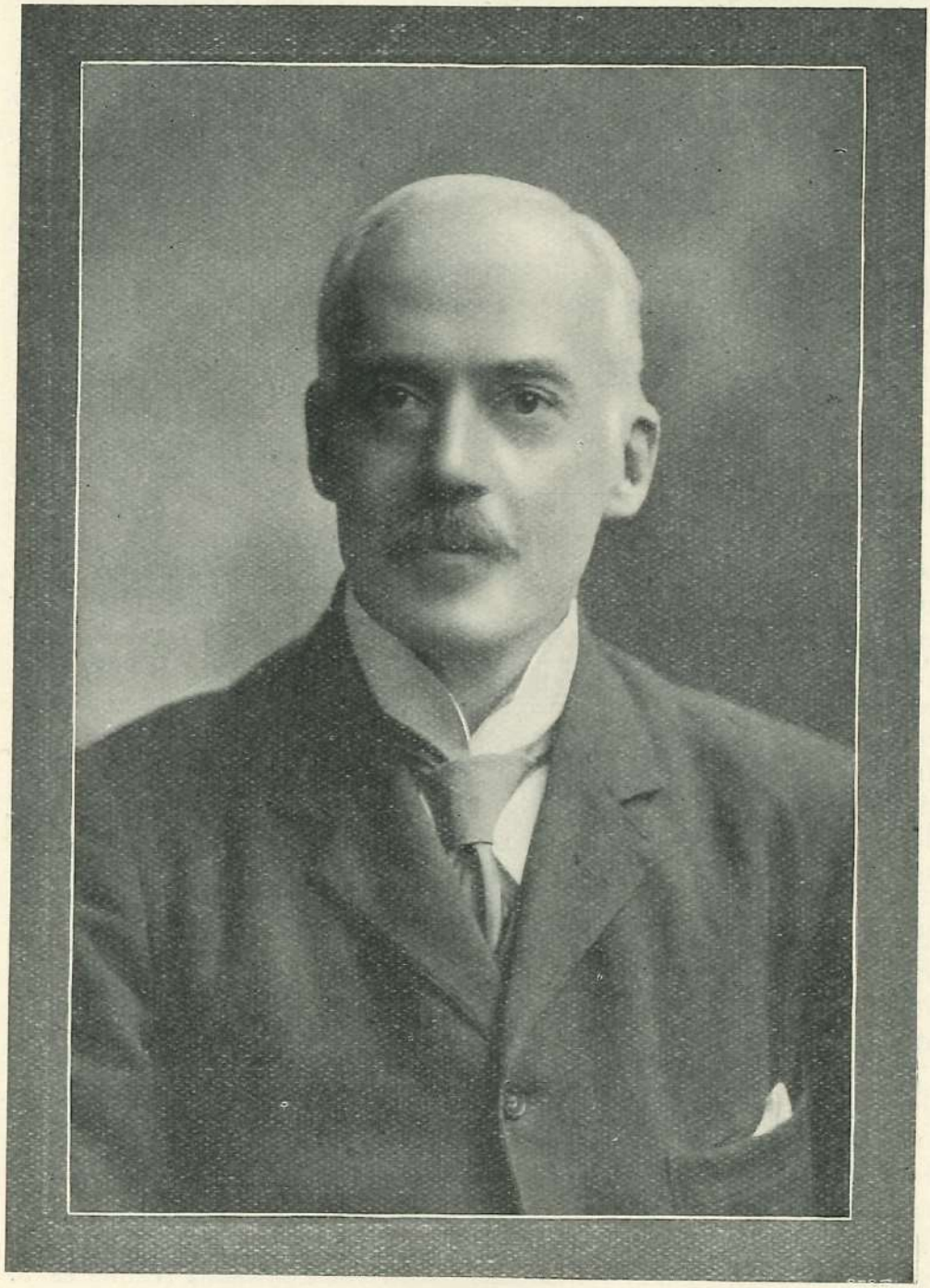
## JOHN WATSON'S AND MR LANGHORNE (1897-1925).

"The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made;
Our times are in His hand
Who saith, 'A whole I planned,
'Youth shows but half; trust God; see all nor be afraid'"

Fourteen years ago these lines of the poet Browning formed the inspiring note at the end of a tribute which *The Levite* paid to Mr Langhorne. To-day, one is constrained to read them in a tragic light, as it has recently come to one's knowledge that Mr Langhorne was himself aware several years ago that his sun was westering and near to its setting. To onlookers, however, he played the game to the end in silence and in dignity, ever true to the traditions of the public school boy.

Of "lang pedigree," Mr Langhorne was sometimes known to enliven the history lesson in his Section when it touched upon the Stuart period by a passing reference to one of his ancestors. This was a Colonel Langhorne, who was numbered amongst the thirty-five men done to death through the false accusations of Titus Oates at the time of his infamous plots. The early records of the Langhornes' show that they sprang from South Wales. A branch of the family in Pembroke migrated, however, to Westmoreland through marriage with the Lowthers, and the title deeds, still extant, of the property there bear a date in the reign of Charles I. The Westmoreland Langhornes' supplied clergy for many generations, the most noted of them being the two brothers who translated Plutarch's "Lives." The younger of these brothers was Dr. John Langhorne, the poet. One of his poems, "The Justice of the Peace" made history. At a gathering of literary people, when Burns, Dr. Dugald Stewart and John Home were present, in the drawing-room of the venerable Professor Fergusson, where Scott says "we youngsters sate silent, looked and listened," Burns was remarkably affected by a print of Bunbury's under which these lines were written :—

"Cold on Canadian hills, or Minden's plain,
Perhaps that parent wept her soldier slain:
Bent o'er her babe, her eye dissolved in dew:
The big drops, mingling with the milk he drew,
Gave the sad presage of his future years,
The child of misery baptised in tears."



JOHN LANGHORNE, M.A.

He asked whose the lines were, and it chanced that Scott alone remembered the author's name, Dr. John Langhorne. Scott "whispered the information to a friend present, who mentioned it to Burns, who rewarded me with a look and a word, which, though of mere civility, I then received, and still recollect, with very great pleasure." This was the first and only occasion that Scott met

Burns. It is interesting to note that the historic meeting has been depicted graphically by the able brush of C. N. Hardie, A.R.S.A.

The scene is now changed from Edinburgh to the neighbourhood of Musselburgh. There, at Loretto House, one finds that in 1826 the Rev. Thomas Langhorne, D.D., the local Episcopal clergyman, had established a boarding school, the pupils being drawn from the sons of neighbouring landed proprietors. It has had a six years' previous growth in his own house, but the accommodation there had proved to be inadequate. For the next twenty-two years the school flourished, and in 1848 he retired in favour of his sons. Under them the school-roll increased to sixty pupils, and in 1857 they invited their young cousin, Hely Hutchinson Almond, to become mathematical master. After a few months he accepted the higher position of second master at Merchiston. When Alexander Langhorne left in 1862, Loretto was bought by Dr. Almond, who had then full scope for the play of his genius.

At that period Mr Langhorne's father, the Rev. John Langhorne, was the headmaster of Rochester Cathedral Grammar School It, was, however, at Tonbridge in Kent that his eldest son, our headmaster, was born on 10th August, 1862. Mr Langhorne began his public school career at nine years of age at Cordwalles School, and a few years later he won an Exhibition and Queen's Scholarship which gained for him admission to Westminster School. Of his happy experiences there he never tired of telling his pupils, his affection for Westminster was life-long. Of a classical bent of mind, he went, as an Exhibitioner, to Trinity College, Cambridge. He took his degree there in the Classical Tripos in 1884, and graduated M.A. in 1893. His first appointment was to a preparatory school in Brighton ; thereafter he was second master at Dedham Grammar School. Following that he spent some time as " Cambridge Locals " master at Christ College, Finchley, and in 1890 he became Form master of " The Barracks " house at Loretto.

It was in September, 1897, that Mr Langhorne succeeded Mr Rowe. John Watson's was then one of the most Scottish of schools of the old type. Apart from being a boarding school, its only semblance to the English type was the nomenclature given by the pupils to themselves as " Levites " and " House." The school excelled in the soundness of its training. If the Head was not sending pupils each year to sit " Oxford Locals " with such brilliant results as to attract more than once the personal notice of the Principal of Edinburgh University, he was preparing a pupil for a foundation at Fettes. Much " midnight oil " was burned in the First Section in these days !

Mr Langhorne came to John Watson's fresh from contact with his kinsman, Dr. Almond, and his methods. At Loretto the scheme of education was the development of character, then physique, then intelligence, manners, and information. Mr Langhorne's initial efforts in his new sphere were naturally to bring John Watson's into line with public school education, a well known feature of which is

Miss Murray.

its conventionality, the development of type. The best specimens of the type are generous, unembarrassed, courageous, sensible and active, but it is admitted that the system tends to a levelling of character. Which certainly makes it less difficult than usual to judge " the tone of the school," a favourite phrase of Mr Langhorne's, or by reflex thought, of the Chief himself.

In order to help him in the creation of the type of scholar which he had in his mind's eye, Mr Langhorne clearly saw that certain externals required to be altered, and in his first session at John

Watson's he roused at once the *amour propre* of the pupils by the adoption of school colours and a change in the school clothing. He regarded this as an essential which plays a larger part in boarding school life than elsewhere. Easy clothing, no hats and regular muscular exercise were to be the means of promoting a vigour of body which made for the good of the mind as well.

The system of physical training at John Watson's had hitherto been fashioned after the Army model ; for thirty-seven years the pupils knew no other Drillmaster than courteous old Sergeant Donnelly. The enthusiasm of Mr Langhorne for athletics carried the Directors with him in reorganising this important branch of education, and in a few years' time he had the pleasure of recording that " the school gymnasium is now, thanks to the management of the Directors and Treasurer, in an advanced state. Built of Craigleith stone, it is quite in keeping with the Institution buildings." The gymnasium was open for use early in November, 1903, and every visitor to it is struck with its admirable proportions and equipment. It will remain a monument to Mr Langhorne's regard for the well-being of his pupils.

Coming now to the academic side of Mr Langhorne's regime, it is the personality of the master which overshadows all else. To " the boys and girls of my raising," to use an expression of Mr Langhorne's, he showed more than the outside of life, the front that is presented to the world ; he turned out, so to speak, the very lining of his mind to them. His *ego* was so forceful that the intellectual food which he provided was sometimes unsettling to immature youth. But against that, the leaven of his remarks often left an abiding effect for good upon the more studious scholar in after life. During the hours which he spent with his pupils in the subjects of Latin and English, they felt that it was not mere class work with him, that his object in grounding them in the subtleties of grammar was to enable them to share with him " all the charm of all the muses often flowering in a lonely word " in ancient or modern literature. Considering how entirely the creatures of sense children are, it is unquestionable that he hit upon the right method of capturing their attention when he took them by the medium of " General Knowledge " talks far beyond the confines of their school world. His idea was to give them the sense of perspective of viewing the change of events and day-to-day reactions, so that they might see national life as a whole. In his School Notes he wrote " Empire Day was duly observed," it came into the scheme of things as a splendid object lesson.

Previous to the year 1897 it was the pride of the " Levites " that they all, with rare exceptions, spent their last year in the First Section. By this praiseworthy incentive the backward pupil was urged to win his spurs of " Levitehood." In these days a master taught in his own Section only. The old order, however, changed, when the School curriculum was so re-arranged that a master taught

Miss Legat,
Teacher, 1893-1927.

the same subject throughout the First, Second and Third Sections at different hours. Mathematics and Science were usually the province of the master of the Second Section. Which reminds one that for the greater part of the twenty-eight years that Mr Langhorne held office, there were no changes amongst his assistant masters. Of these Mr Owston was in charge of the Second Section from 1902 to 1919; Mr Miller of the Third Section from 1906 to 1919, and

Miss Legat has now taught the Fourth Section under three Headmasters. Their, and other masters' faithful sericve to the School has won for them an affectionate esteem on the part of the pupils which ever grows with the passing years.

In life's battle the pupils whom Mr Langhorne sent forth have shown the merits of the classical education in which they were grounded.

The muster-roll contains the names of as many as five holders of scholarships at Oxford, two Vans Dunlop scholars at Edinburgh, an Honours Greek man at St. Andrews, a prizeman in Greek and Mathematics, and a holder of Lloyd's Register Science scholarship at Glasgow, while there are as many as nine students at Edinburgh University at one time. At Fettes, Edinburgh Academy, George Watson's, Glasgow Academy, the " Levites " distinguished themselves, not only generally but in specific cases, in Greek, Latin, Modern Languages and Mathematics. Old Boys became Duxes of Fettes College, Daniel Stewart's and Dundee High School, and Old Girls Duxes of Queen Street School and the Ministers' Daughters College. The Sibbald bursary at the Royal High School was won by an Old Boy with one hundred marks above the next candidate, and the Hunter Prize, the blue ribbon of secondary schools in the West, fell to another. One girl pupil gained a scholarship admitting her to Girton College, and another the Kirk Mackie Prize in Gymnastics.

While the Church has the services of a few pupils, the medical profession is well represented, the Old Girls being as numerous as the Old Boys as Doctors ! There were never more followers, amongst both sexes, of their Headmaster's own profession than to-day. Science degree men, and latterly C.A.'s, are also noticeable by their numbers. The nursing profession has been very popular amongst the Old Girls, who have gained gold medals in one or two instances. In single numbers can be counted a well known naval architect, a lady medical missionary and a lady dentist.

Incomplete as this record is, one cannot but be struck with the advance made by the " spindle side " of the School in the path of progress, and for that a share of the credit must be given to those leaders of the School's best traditions, the late Miss Murray and Miss Gellatly.

In sport the successes attained by four Old Boys, as Internationalists at Rugby, as a Fettes cricket captain with the best batting average for public schools, and as sports' champion at George Watson's, are indicative of the good stuff that the School still produces.

But the School has another muster-roll more glorious than any list of scholastic successes. It proves that Mr Langhorne was not content to make his pupil a scholar, he sought to make him a man.

When 4th August, 1914, became a date in history, many a Watson boy left his finishing school to go straight to the battlefield, never to return. Eighteen of Mr Langhorne's pupils fell in the Great War. Their names "live for evermore" on the School roll of honour.

On the Vacation Day for eight and twenty years did Mr Langhorne wish God's speed to his pupils on the first day of their journey beyond his rule, and as their clear young voices sang in the Chapel on Friday, 24th July, 1925, the Dismission Hymn, beginning—

"Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing,
Thanks for mercies past receive;
Pardon all, their faults confessing;
Time that's lost may all retrieve.
May Thy children
Ne'er again Thy Spirit grieve."

and ending—

"Let Thy father-hand be shielding
All who here shall meet no more;
May their seed-time past be yielding
Year by year a richer store;
Those returning,
Make more faithful than before."

little did they dream that it was the *Nunc Dimittis* of their Headmaster. One month later he departed this life.

D. M. Thomson.

## THE SCHOOL PORTERS.

When two "Levites" of different generations chance to speak about the Porters of their time, each feels instinctively, although he does not say so openly, that his Porter was the better man! Old pupils of the '70's think that the '90's filched the name of "The Craw" for their man, whereas the truth is, the title was derived from the name of the Porter of the '30's. This rivalry shows that the Porter, or Craw, or Beak, or Jonah, call him what you will, has always been thought of highly. New children take to him as naturally as to a father, so much so that the expression "Beak's sons" is not unknown. In these worthy men the School has rejoiced in possessing notable "characters." Duty has been their watchword. It is simply unknown for them to be late for "Start," no matter how wild and stormy a morning may be.

The proud record was begun by Alexander McCraw, a big Highlander, imbued with ideas of the feudal order. After thirty-

five years' service this Waterloo veteran died at his post on 26th May, 1855. Next in order comes John Liddell, who assumed the mantle of the Craw as to the manner born. Erect in bearing, whimsical and emphatic in speech, expert in "hoching," he was a faithful servant to John Watson's. He died at the Lodge on 9th December, 1881, and lies at rest in the Dean cemetery. His place was not easy to fill, but by good fortune the Directors remembered a house servant, of twenty-six years' standing, of Lord Curriehill. His name was Walter Blackstock, and within a week he was appointed Porter. A tall man, clad in blacks or dark grey, and old fashioned stock, he was so regular in habit that a boy knew the correct time to set his "Waterbury" by noticing where the Craw was at the moment! Blackstock gave up his duties owing to failing eyesight in 1895-6, the second last session of the Headmaster he served so well.

The next Porter, John Allan, was less than medium height, but held himself like the old Marine he was proud to be. His near presence could aspire awe in the breast of the small boy, but that was dissipated as often as not by kindly deed. At the Centenary celebrations "Jonah" had many delightful moments with his "old shipmates," to use his own expression. His successor, Sergeant Daniels, came in 1918 fresh from war service with the Royal Scots. His short stay of four years was marked by a keen interest in athletics —for he was Gym. teacher too—and it was chiefly due to his training and organising that the first Sports held by the School in 1919 were such a success.

There was no mistaking the soldier in the next Porter, Henry Diamond. He was the first Porter to wear a uniform, on which at School ceremonies he displayed the D.C.M., the French M.M. and the "Old Contemptible" service medals as a sergeant of the Highland Light Infantry. Old Boys look back with pleasure on these days in the School Park where he gave them drill and exercises of the modern army style. In other ways, too, they say he worthily maintained the high standard of his predecessors.

## A CHRONICLE OF JOHN WATSON'S.

JOHN WATSON, our Founder, born 1705, youngest son of David Watson, Writer, Edinburgh, and of Catherine, youngest daughter of Sir David Carnegie, Bart. of Pittarrow, married Isobel Mudie 1741, admitted to W.S. Society, 1739. Substitute Keeper of the Signet, 1746-62, residences at Gosford's Close, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, and Nellfield, Liberton, died 5th November, 1762.

ORIGINAL TRUSTEES.—Andrew Fletcher (Lord Milton), cousin of our Founder, and John Mackenzie, W.S., of Delvin, D.K.S., from 1770 to 1778.

PRESENT TRUSTEES.—The Keepers and Commissioners of the Society of Writers to the Signet.

**Principal Keepers of the Signet.**

1814 Right Hon. William Dundas.
1845 James, Marquis of Dalhousie.
1860 James Hope, *interim*.
1862 Sir William Gibson Craig.
1878 James Hope, *interim*.
1879 George Frederick, Earl of Glasgow.
1890 Douglas Beresford, Duke of Montrose.
1926 John Charles, Duke of Buccleuch.

**Deputy Keepers of the Signet.**

1820 Colin Mackenzie.
1828 Richard Mackenzie and James Hope.
1850 James Hope.
1882 John Clerk Brodie.
1887 Sir Charles B. Logan.
1905 Sir George M. Paul.
1925 William C. Johnston.

**Treasurer and Factor of Fund.**

1781 Samuel Mitchelson.
1788 William Tytler.
1792 Isaac Grant.
1795 Thomas Tod.
1801 Cornelius Elliott.
1821 Vans Hathorn.

**Treasurer of the School.**

1828 Vans Hathorn.
1839 John Hamilton.
1870 Sir John Gillespie.
1901 Hugh Patten.
1924 William C. Dudgeon.

**Headmasters.**

1827 The Rev. Charles Marshall.
1841 The Rev. John Forbes, LL.D.
1850 The Rev. Andrew Wilson.
1855 The Rev. Fergus Jardine.
1858 George Rowe, B.A., Lond.
1897 John Langhorne, M.A.
1925 Major J. O. Naismith,* D.S.O., M.A.

**Medical Officers.**

1823 Henry Johnston.
1843 Patrick Newbigging.
1863 James Dunsmure.
1886 James Dunsmure, jun.
1907 Charles Mowbray Pearson.

**Matrons.**

1828 Miss Tait.
1830 Mrs Molleson.
1849 Miss Lyon.
1858 Miss Auld.
1875 Miss Murray.*
1917 Miss Gellatly.*

**Assistant Matrons.**

1829 Miss Auld.
1844 Miss Molleson.
1858 Miss Kirby.*
1869 Miss Murray.*
1875 Miss Home.
1898 Miss Gellatly.*
1917 Miss Watson.
1919 Miss Pattullo.
1923 Miss Cant.
1924 Miss Ferguson.
1926 Miss Gardner.

The roll of the non-resident officials shows several instances where the same post has been held by father and son successively. The Dentist has been a Watson since 1880. French knew no other than a Kunz from 1869 to 1927. Drawing was taught by a Frier

* A former pupil.

(father and daughter) from 1862 to 1898 ; Singing by a Moonie from 1890 to 1928 ; Dancing by an Atkinson from 1870 to 1896, and the School Band by a Laubach from 1876 to 1896.

The first Dentist was F. B. Imlach, his service dating from 1851 to 1870 ; and the second was Dr. W. A. Roberts, who died in 1880. Mr Frier's predecessor was James Drummond, R.S.A., and his successors have been James J. Noble—1898-1912. T. Currie Bell, A. Young and W. Miles Johnston since 1922. The precentors of St. Bernard's and the Dean taught the children psalm tunes. A Singing master of long service was Joseph Geoghegan, from 1862 to 1890. Music was faithfully taught by Miss Dewar from 1843 to 1860 ; Miss Simpson,* three years ; Miss Gray, twenty-three years ; Miss Janetta Moffat,* from 1886 to 1896 ; Miss Walton, eleven years, and Miss Downie, twenty years from 1907. Boys and girls alike were drilled by Sergeant Lawson, 1831-1856 ; Sergeant Donnelly, 1856-1893 ; and Sergeant-Major Macrae, 1893-1902. When the School Gymnasium was opened in 1903, the boys were taught by F. W. Sheen until 1909. His successors were Sergeant Woolfoot and W. Bruce Sutherland. The girls have had latterly physical drill under Misses Beakbane, Crerar, Sutherland, Arnold and Young, for short periods. Of longer service are Miss Ferguson and Miss Maclean.

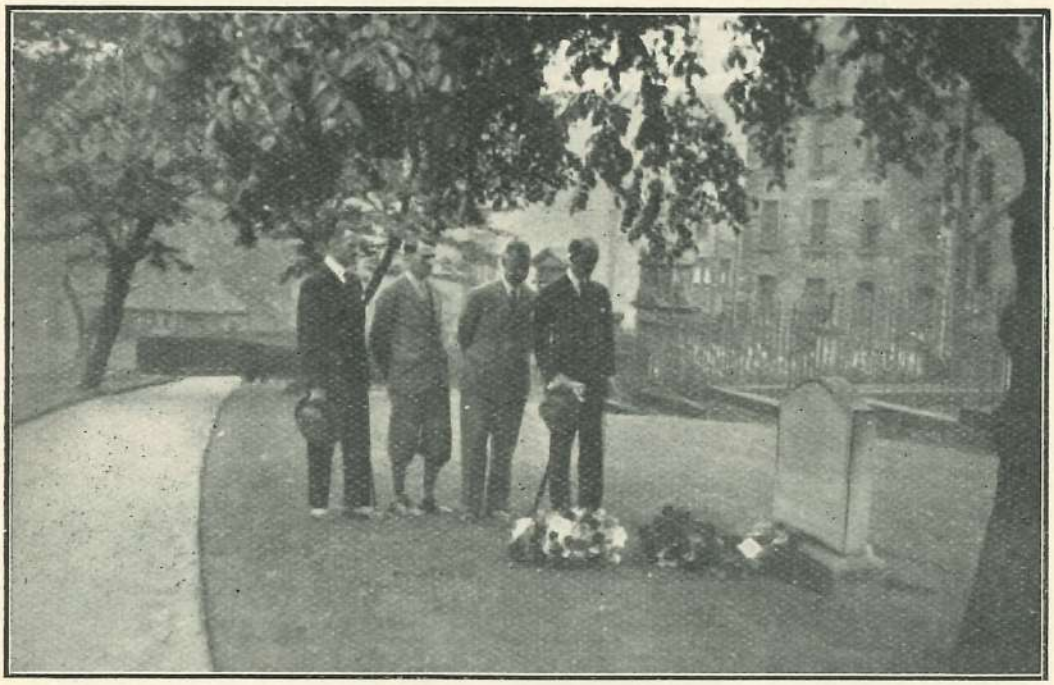
Nurses whose services are remembered are Miss " Kirsty " Anderson, Nurse Storey, Nurse Alice Wilson, Nurse Mitchell, Nurse Gillies, and Nurse Young. It is on record that the School has been " served by as true a body of servants as was to be found in Scotland." One, in particular, was " Wee Jenny " (Janet Shanklin), after whom " Jenny's Green " is called. She was the laundrymaid from 1854 to 1884. Lastly, the School grounds have been under the charge of John Macnee, Charles Canning, James Clephane (1895-to 1926), and Stephen Mulhern, who helped to plant the Commemoration Oak.

## AT THE FOUNDER'S GRAVE.

In the quiet of the ancient Greyfriars' Churchyard an act of homage was paid to the memory of the Founder of the School at the time of the centenary celebrations. A laurel wreath with flowers in the School colours, was laid on the grave of John Watson on behalf of the Deputy Keeper and Commissioners of the Writers to the Signet, " in commemoration." A similar tribute of reverence for the Founder was paid by Dr. W. Alister Alexander, the President of the Old Boys' Club, when a beautiful floral wreath was deposited " in grateful memory from the former pupils."

Many " Levites " have recently found their way to the grave of John Watson. It lies near to the path leading to, and only thrity

* A former pupil.



OUR FOUNDER'S GRAVE.
*From Headstone* :—Dr. W. A. Alexander, H. C. McEwen, W. Pashley Gibb and D. M. Thomson.

yards distant from, the Covenanters' Monument. Its discovery was brought to light in a biography of John Watson which appeared in our August, 1914, Number. Soon afterwards the School Trustees caused a headstone to be erected.

## THE CENTENARY OF JOHN WATSON'S.

Year in, year out, for a hundred years all told, John Watson's has given of its best in drawing out the highest qualities of mind and character of its pupils. To new children the old walls ever seem to say—

"Henceforth the School and you are one,
And what You are, the race shall be."

As the pupils grow in years and understanding and learn of the School's traditions, they, in turn, unconsciously but none the less surely, acquire the hall-marks of the School. Thus, the pupils are known, above all, for the qualities of independence and loyalty. Proof of this is furnished by generations of mothers having remarked upon these characteristics being more to the fore in their John Watson child than in their other children. Such is the School's contribution, and it is by no mean one, to the State. By these distinctive marks have its pupils shown their spirit in every quarter of the world. Wherever they wander, the call of the School re-echoes in their hearts. To them the name of "Levite" is the open-sesame

to friendship, old and new. It is therefore natural that such a notable event as a centenary in the history of the School should, even years in advance, quicken the thoughts and imaginations of the whole Watson fellowship. When our Spring Number outlined the celebrations which the Directors had planned, the "Levites" of all ages looked forward eagerly to an event which would be the greatest re-union the School had ever held.

At last that day of days, Thursday, 19th July, arrived, and that morning the outside world awakened to the fact, through the columns of "The Scotsman," that a School, unlike in character to any other in Scotland, was about to observe its centenary. The kind invitation of the Deputy Keeper and Commissioners of the Writers to the Signet was accepted by over three hundred guests—a company too numerous to name individually. But of the various public bodies of Edinburgh, there were representatives of the Town Council, the clerical, medical, and legal professions, the Navy, the Education Authority, also headmasters and headmistresses of colleges, and a large number of former pupils of all ages (the oldest was a lady of 85), the relatives of the pupils, and several former members of the staff. Many of the residents of the Ravelston district also attended.

From early morning there were bright skies overhead, and the guests, in gay attire, were in happy expectant mood, as they passed through the entrance gates of the School. The beauty of the grounds next gladdened the eye, and when the steps of the Porch were reached, the guests were greeted by the happy faces of boys and girls, who were there to hand out programmes of the proceedings. Entering the Chapel, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, the guests seated themselves opposite an extensive platform which had been erected under the dignified portrait of Vans Hathorn, the first Treasurer and the Grand Old Man of the School. The staff and pupils, later, occupied seats in front.

Presently there entered the following platform party :—William C. Johnston, LL.D., D.K.S., the Chairman of the School ; Mrs Johnston ; Miss Johnston ; Colonel Blair, D.S.O., W.S. ; A. E. Campbell, W.S. ; Ninian J. Finlay, W.S. ; J. G. Kirkpatrick, W.S. ; T. M. Murray, W.S. ; E. J. McCandlish, W.S. ; J. L. Officer, W.S. ; John Scott, W.S. ; J. Miller Thomson, W.S., Directors. W. C. Dudgeon, W.S., the Treasurer of the School ; The Very Rev. Dr. J. Harry Miller, Moderator of the United Free Church ; The Rev. D. G. Hamilton ; Bailie Nasmyth ; Major J. O. Naismith, D.S.O., the Headmaster ; Mrs Naismith ; Dr. W. Alister Alexander, President ; and D. M. Thomson, Secretary and Treasurer, both of the Old Boys' Club, and Miss Gellatly, President of the Girls' Association.

The Chapel was filled to overflowing, when the ceremony began with the singing of the Second Paraphrase led by the pupils. There-

after prayer was offered by the Rev. D. G. Hamilton, a highly esteemed former President of the Old Boys' Club.

Mr Johnston, the Chairman, then addressed the gathering as follows :—

" A School centenary is a great occasion, and I hope that to-day's celebration will leave happy memories on the minds of all, and especially those who have the good fortune to be pupils of the School to-day.

" It would have been fitting that the Duke of Buccleuch, as Keeper of the Signet and our actual chief, had been present to welcome you all as our guests to-day, but unfortunately his engagements in the South prevent this. He sends his cordial good wishes.

Our Founder's Country Residence,
" Bellfield," Liberton.

" We have, too, very cordial letters from Sir George Macdonald, the Secretary of the Scottish Education Department ; The Hon. Oliver Stanley, M.P., Secretary of the Board of Education in England; our old friend the Rev. James Reekie, late Minister of the Dean Church ; Professor Godfrey Thomson, and others, including many old pupils of the School, who are unfortunately unable to be present to-day.

" The Society of Writers to the Signet are proud of their connection with the School, and the Directors and other members of the Society propose as a memorial of the Centenary to put up Panels in the Entrance Hall giving the names of the past Keepers of the Signet, Deputy Keepers, Headmasters and others distinguished in

the School's history to be followed, I trust, by many others in years to come. We hope that the Entrance Hall, which is perhaps hardly worthy of the fine building, will in this way be improved and brightened and have a greater human interest added to it.

" The School has built up a very fine tradition. We feel sure it will continue to improve that tradition. After living for a hundred years a man or woman grows tired, but a school is only just beginning to get into its stride after that period. With the help of Major Naismith, who is full of ideas, we have already made changes in the direction of greater efficiency. We do not intend to sit still but to move with the times and do everything we can to increase the credit and prestige of the School. We are sure the staff, the pupils, and the old pupils will strongly support us. To my mind one of the great signs of a good or a bad school is whether the old pupils came back with affection for the old place or whether they didn't. In this case, they do.

" I leave to others to make special reference to the staff, past and present, but I would like to thank Miss Gellatly for her help and work for the School. Perhaps we have not lessened her enjoyment in not asking her to make a speech.

" I must not detain you longer and have pleasure in calling on the Headmaster, Major Naismith, who, as an Old Boy, can speak with special authority of the School and its history."

Major Naismith, who dealt briefly with the history of the Institution, referred his audience to the account which had appeared in " The Scotsman " that morning. To many the School had been a mystery. In England the tendency was for schools to be named after corporations and societies, whereas in Scotland they more often bore the names of individuals. In the case of the Institution, while the original bequest had been made by John Watson, it was the W.S. Society which had been responsible for its foundation, and its designation might well give some indication of this fact.

It was in the year 1759 that John Watson directed in his will that, after the death of his wife, the residue of his estate be left to two trustees, Andrew Fletcher (Lord Milton) and John Mackenzie, W.S., of Delvin, " to apply to such charitable purposes within the city as they shall think fit." Mr Watson died in 1762 and his wife seven years later. From the trustees the fund passed into the hands of the Society of Writers to the Signet. It was in the year 1813 that Vans Hathorn, whose portrait adorns the walls of the hall in which they were met, first became connected with the trust, having been appointed agent in its successful defence against the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh before the Court of Session. In 1822 the vital decision was made of applying the fund, then amounting to £110,000, to the establishment of the School as it is known to-day. Building operations occupied three years, and on 12th August, 1828, John Watson's was opened with twenty-one girls and eleven boys on its roll under the Headmaster of Mr (later the

Rev.) Charles Marshall. Three years later the number of pupils reached the maximum which the School could accommodate. The second Headmaster was Dr. (later Professor) Forbes, who left in 1850 to become the first Headmaster of Donaldson's. He was succeeded by two other Headmasters who remained only a few years. John Watson's first knew Mr George Rowe as Headmaster in 1858. Those of his old pupils who were present that afternoon could testify to the depth of affection which he inspired. Under him the standard of scholarship was extremely high and consistently good results were obtained in the Junior Local Examinations at the University. He remained in office for forty years and left an abiding mark on the character of the School. His successor was Mr John Langhorne, who came from Loretto in 1897. Mr Langhorne was a fine English and classical scholar, and a highly successful teacher, but was not afforded the same opportunity of showing the result of his work through the absence of external examinations. He paid great attention to the healthy recreation of the pupils. In his time the School Gymnasium was built. The speaker had been increasingly impressed by the extent of Mr Langhorne's contribution to the welfare of the School.

Major Naismith further remarked that there was still a place for a school like John Watson's in Scottish education. It catered for a particular class which deserved assistance and it was a co-educational School. It was an institution which sought to rid itself of institutional methods. There was a great deal to be said for a school which was a home and a home which was a school. The Directors had ever striven to keep it up-to-date in its methods and equipment and had always regarded theirs as a sacred trust. It was characteristic that they themselves had disbursed the whole cost of the proceedings that day and that none of the expense had fallen on the School funds.

Bailie Nasmyth delivered the following speech :—

" It is a great privilege and honour to be present on this interesting occasion, representing the Town Council of our ancient and beloved city. The Councillors of the present day, as an inherent part of their nature as Scotsmen, are deeply interested in the cause of education, and Edinburgh has great cause to be grateful to John Watson, George Watson, George Heriot, and others for the magnificent and useful educational institutions bearing their names. It was the Town Council which founded the 'Tounis College' in 1582, and which has become the great University of world-wide fame. The Royal High School in the past was also managed by the Town Council. It had a great reputation, and of the many distinguished men educated there, the most famous is Sir Walter Scott. The pious founder of this Institution was a pupil at the High School.

" As boys, I suppose we are all alike and look upon schools as evils to be borne with as much patience as possible until the

day we leave. As we grow older we recognise the vast importance of education, without which we would all be merely drawers of water and hewers of wood. Education is begun at school, it continues through life. Every day we are being educated. Every day we

*By E. J. McCandlish, W.S.*

THE PLANTING OF THE COMMEMORATION OAK IN 1928,
By MRS W. C. JOHNSTON, Wife of the Deputy Keeper.

realise how little we know of our universe and its wonders. In the City Chambers I meet visitors from Canada, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and they refer to the great part Scotsmen have always taken in the development of these Dominions. Now, why is this the case? It is due to the sound education which it is the pride of

Scottish parents to give to their children, fitting them out with something more than a mere working capital. Money can do a great deal, but a well-trained mind is of greater value. In this School you are receiving a training which fits you for life's battle, so be not discouraged but 'carry on.'"

On behalf of the former pupils, Dr. Alexander said :—

"I have the honour to represent on this memorable occasion the former pupils of the Institution and this privilege entails no light responsibility, for hitherto no such opportunity has presented itself for those who have enjoyed the benefits of the School to give public expression to their feelings of indebtedness. I regard myself, therefore, as spokesman for the whole host of those—and I understand they number now considerably over 1500—who each for a period of six or seven years received board and schooling in this beautiful building and in these fine surroundings at the hands of the John Watson Trust, and who then at the age of fourteen, excellently equipped as they found when they came up against other children of their own age, left its hospitable walls and were sped on their way with the parting gifts of a Bible and £5, and often also with the promise of a bursary to enable them to complete their education. Of this host of witnesses, a great number—probably more than half —have passed beyond our ken. Of the remainder who are alive, very many are abroad. Comparatively few are in Scotland. With some we have lost touch, but I consider that all would have wished or would wish that I should regard it as my first duty to-day, in offering respectful congratulations to the Society of Writers to the Signet and the present Directors on this signal event in the history of the School, to assure them that they have come to realise more and more deeply as they have grown older their debt of gratitude and at the same time have been fully sensible of the measure of relief which was afforded to their mothers and guardians, whereby not only were they themselves enabled in many instances to follow their father's professions but the way was made clear for other members of the family, who were not at the Institution, to receive an education and a start in life which would otherwise have been impossible. Of the Governors of the School of my own time, I should like to make affectionate mention of two of whom we saw much, the late Sir Charles Logan, then Chairman of Directors, and the late Mr Hugh Patten, the Treasurer.

"It would be interesting to you, I feel, were I able to give an indication of what has become of those who have passed through the School, but an adequate review in the time at my disposal is not possible. From the beginning, the pioneer and missionary spirit has been strongly developed in the pupils and many of both sexes have found their way literally to the four corners of the earth. Of the fourteen boys who left when I did, in 1904, three have been lost trace of. Of the remainder, I alone am left in Scotland. Two are in Canada, three in India, one in New Zealand, one in Central Africa,

one in the Philippines and one in Hawaii. I am indebted to Mr David Thomson for two sets of figures which are of interest. The first—and it is perhaps a little out of place at this point—deals with the professions of the fathers of the boys who entered from 1828 up to the year 1920. Twenty-six per cent. belong to the medical, 25 per cent. to the clerical, 25 per cent. to the legal and 9 per cent. to the teaching profession. Six per cent. had been officers in the Army or Navy and 3 per cent. officers in the Mercantile Marine. That accounts for all except 6 per cent. The other set has reference to the careers of the boys who could be traced and who left School in the fifty years 1866 to 1915. At least 50 had held or were holding responsible business positions ; some 30 were doctors and 23 bank agents ; 17 were in the teaching profession (including 2 who held professorships) and 12 in the legal ; 10 were in the Indian Civil or other Indian Government service ; some 10 were ministers ; 8 held a Science degree ; 7 were in the regular fighting services ; and so on. Scholastic successes have been many and cannot be specified. It is a source of pride that this year one of the pupils has gained a foundation at Fettes College. He follows fourteen others who have won a similar distinction. One of these became Dux of Fettes, and one, to mention another side of school activity, had a batting average that still remains memorable in the annals of Scottish schoolboy cricket. Mention of sport reminds me that two former pupils played rugby football and one cricket for Scotland. It may not be known to all of you that the present Matron of the Institution, Miss Gellatly, and the present Headmaster, Major Naismith, are old pupils. Our thoughts turn inevitably also to another, Miss Murray of gracious memory. She was one of the big personalities of John Watson's. I cannot go into detail with regard to the War Record of the School, but how honourable it was is known to many of you. This short review has dealt mainly with the Old Boys and I must dismiss the record of the girls with the statement that it is equally creditable. My object has been to point out that the School has amply justified its existence and to emphasise that the seed that was sown has, in the vast majority of instances, brought forth abundant fruit.

" I might say a word too about the activities of the F.P. Association. There are two flourishing Clubs, the Old Boys' Club, which has been in existence for some thirty years, and the Old Girls' Association, with a rather shorter life. A Magazine is published twice a year, a re-union held at Christmas, a cricket match played against the scholars in June, a rugby match with some local club at the New Year, and hockey and tennis matches. There are badminton and tennis clubs. Medals and prizes are presented for scholarship and athletics. Two War Memorial Bursaries are presented. There is also the Weir Bursary of £40 for three years. In all that pertains to the School the clubs, which have a relatively large membership, maintain a healthy and loyal interest. In this connection, the occasion is a suitable one for mentioning one who more than any

other is responsible for this happy state of affairs. I refer to Mr David Thomson. He has been Secretary and Treasurer of the Old Boys' Club since its inception, the Editor of the Magazine for most of its twenty-five years' existence, and in short, the mainspring of the Association. The idea of the Centenary Recreation Fund, to which I am about to refer, originated with him and he has been mainly instrumental in its collection. Affection for his old School is with him a ruling passion and his unselfish labours on its behalf deserve our grateful recognition.

" And now, Mr Chairman, I have one further duty to perform and that is to ask you to accept on behalf of the trustees this cheque for £600. It has been subscribed by members of the two F.P. Clubs in celebration of to-day's outstanding event and is, with the

THE JOHN WATSON CLUB MEDAL.

Directors' consent, to be constituted a Centenary Recreation Fund, of which the annual income shall be devoted to providing facilities for indoor and outdoor recreation for the present pupils. With it go a wealth of feelings of affection and loyalty towards the Institution and hopes that it may long retain its distinctive character and fulfil its beneficent function."

The Deputy Keeper, on receiving the cheque for £600, remarked

" It is a most delightful surprise to receive so very handsome a gift from the old pupils, and on behalf of the Directors, we would gladly accept it for the object for which it was given."

The next speaker, in his Moderator's robes, remarked as only Dr. Harry Miller can :—

" I count it a pleasure to be here on two grounds. First because of the interesting occasion which has called us together—the Centenary of this remarkable School : and second, because of my friendship with your present Headmaster, Major Naismith. Major Naismith was my assistant in the Pleasance some years ago, and I have good cause to bear witness both to the resourcefulness of his

nature, and to the constructive and good ideas which he carried into his work. His record in the Army is proof of these qualities of insight, resource, and character which make him a worthy successor to the men who have held this high office before him.

" I am glad also to be here because in this School you are carrying forward in co-education an experiment of the greatest value to all of us who are trying to find how we may more closely link home and school. Here you have that experiment being carried on in a most remarkable way. To many a home from which the father has been taken this School has brought a message of hope ; and mothers whose children have lost the influence of their father at the time when it was sorely needed, have had reason to thank God for John Watson's Institution.

" But it is when we think of the aim of Education, and of how this School is trying to fulfil it, that our gratitude grows deeper. We see the kind of men and women whom it has produced, and realise that education has for its finest product character rather than cleverness. Cleverness without character is the most dangerous force in society. Character without cleverness may be dull but it is reliable. But character linked with the fullest use of all capacities is an inestimable strength and boon to any community.

" I would say to the boys and girls here that they should learn to develop that kind of reliable character which, when they go forth into the world and enter a wider life, can be relied upon always to do its best. Faithfulness with diligence should be the watchwords of their work, so that people may be able to say, 'You can trust that boy or that girl ; they come from John Watson's Institution.'

" I would leave with the children especially some lines that are very significant and dear to me, and have been for many years. Here they are :—

> "'As Thou hast found me ready to Thy call
> Which stationed me beside the outer wall,
> And quitting joys and hopes that once were mine,
> To face with patient steps this narrow line :
> Oh! may it be that coming soon or late,
> Thou still shall find Thy soldier at the gate.'"

The ceremony then closed with the Benediction, followed by the National Anthem.

## BEFORE THE SCHOOL WAS BUILT.

It may be old history, but nevertheless there is not a Watson pupil who will not stop to listen to the ideas which Vans Hathorn has to express about the " child of his brain," the School.

To understand his point of view, let us, in imagination, stand beside the old Treasurer on the actual site of the future School. We see that it is pleasantly situated on a height, bordered, on its

wooded slope, by an old windmill and a placid stream, while further south lie smiling fields right up to the foot of the Pentland Hills. In front of us, to the north-east, there is also a wide expanse of open country, with a glimpse of the Firth of Forth beyond. Near are the Ravelston Dykes and another road leading to the ancient Dean Manor House. Half-a-mile away, above the low-lying Dean village, stands the New Town of Edinburgh. The school-site is, to our surprise, elevated to a degree hardly to be conceived in this year of grace 1928.

Let us now take the great liberty of joining a meeting which the Directors are holding at the Signet Hall in the month of February, 1824. On the table lie three sets of plans, two from London and a third from a local architect, William Burn. The first two plans are considered to have too plain an elevation, and the merits of the Grecian elevation and plans of the building proposed by Mr Burn decidedly win the day.

Now, Vans Hathorn had views all his own on the elevation of the building, and he has left on record some observations, which, while now of academic interest only, reveal the care with which he weighed up the situation.

Vans Hathorn writes :—

" Altho' this is of a secondary importance compared to the interior accommodation, yet it is due to the memory of the Founder, to the respectability of the establishment, to the credit of the Trustees and to the vicinity of the Metropolis, to pay a proper attention to the outward appearance of the building, in as far as consistent with that economy which is befitting every building erected from funds destined for charitable purposes.

" The elevation proposed, I am convinced, is classically correct and would be beautiful upon a near approach to it, but I continue of opinion that the low Grecian style of building is not appropriate to the situation of your Hospital.

" Everything around, of conspicuous character, is different- Arthur's Seat and the more distant mountains, the Castle erected on a high and commanding eminence, the Calton Hill covered with buildings to the top, and Nelson's Pillar high above all. Lord Melville's Pillar and the different Church spires and domes in this city, *full in view*, all these are of a high and exalted character. Even the buildings of Lord Moray's grounds which already seem near to us and other buildings which may soon be erected still nearer to us will be of a higher description than our proposed elevation of only two storeys. Heriot's Hospital and also Gillespie's are both of a more striking character. There is nothing, indeed, of the flat Grecian style all around.*

" I certainly would much prefer a building of three storeys above the basement floor to one of two, more especially I think a building of so great a length of front as 250 feet to be only 35 feet

* John Watson's, in other words, was the first Grecian building in Edinburgh.

in height and nearly the same in depth at the ends is out of proportion for a single building. It is like two or three houses joined to each other.

"I would not indeed propose the elevation sent from London to be adopted. It is too plain, but I think it might be improved by the addition of two wings into which the laundry, wash houses or sheds and others for the out-door works of the children could be placed, and in wings too, wards in case of smallpox, measles, whooping cough, fever, or other infectious complaints might be very appropriately placed.

"But I would wish to see some other Elevation of three storeys above ground, and if with a tower a little higher so much the better to my mind. I am convinced it would look much better and form a much more magnificent addition to the scenery around the Metropolis, from the approach by the Firth of Forth and from every other approach to the City, than the low Grecian elevation proposed."

Whether our readers will agree with the views of Vans Hathorn or not, we are convinced that looking back over a century of school and town life, the wisdom of the Directors in the choice of building is unchallengeable to this day. Its grace of line makes an instant appeal to the eye and disarms the critic, while its internal arrangements are planned with thought that is well nigh genius. It would be difficult to surpass the way in which Mr Burn, a hundred years ago, studied the standpoint of health. His idea was to arrange the rooms so that each set would be used at different and distinct periods of the day. Thus :—

"Wardrooms (bedrooms) to occupy the whole upper storey—use at night."

"Schoolrooms, masters' and mistresses' apartments—and they must be constantly near the children—on the principal floor—through the day."

"The Under-Storey—accommodation for servants, etc., wash house, laundry and workshop."

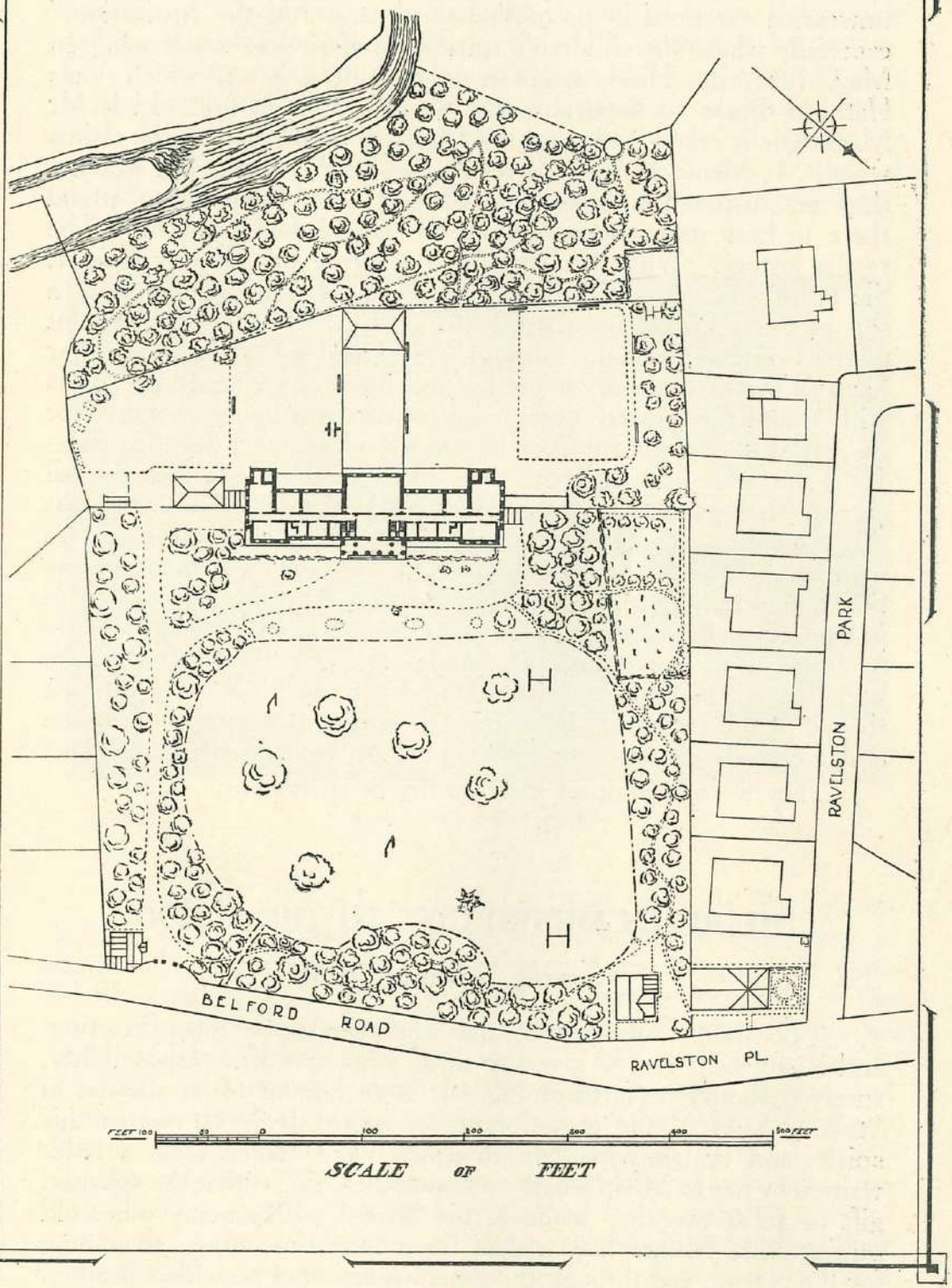
Important also in Mr Burn's plans were the wide corridors on each floor, the two central staircases and one at each end of the building.

A last word. Happy is the School which is as soundly planned inside and outside as John Watson's !

## AT THE PLANNING OF THE SCHOOL.

Vans Hathorn has ever held pride of place in the pupils' minds as the Grand Old Man of the School. In the Chapel his picture shows him seated at a table on which lie the minute books of the School. Let us open their pages, and discover the names of the principal men with whom Vans Hathorn planned the School. In June, 1825, we find him concerned about the foundation stone, and he writes to Mr Colin Mackenzie, D.K.S., making some suggestions,

# JOHN WATSON'S INSTITUTION
AND
# GROUNDS




*SCALE OF FEET*

1910.

and adds " I leave all to you." Mr Mackenzie was given the honour of laying the stone, for he was the chief framer of the Act of Parliament which gave the School its constitution. In 1828 Mr Richard Mackenzie of Dolphinton began to preside at the Directors' meetings, and continued to do so for twenty years. He was noted " for his unwearied exertions in promoting the interests of the Institution," especially where the children's spiritual welfare was concerned. In May, 1843, the Headmaster wrote to him a letter, which Vans Hathorn thinks so important that he records it in full. In it Mr Mackenzie is asked " whether the Directors are to dispute the claims which Mr Manson makes to retain the Dean Chapel and whether they are disposed meantime to allow the children still to attend there to hear such tirades against the Established Church." The rest is history. While Mr Richard Mackenzie was Deputy Keeper, the office was held jointly with a younger man, Mr James Hope, a son of the Right Hon. Charles Hope of Granton, Lord President of the Court of Session. Although Mr Hope was a Director as far back as the first session of the School, there are many older pupils with whom this gravely dignified chairman is a living memory, for he served the School for over fifty years. Upon his death in June, 1882, the School books record that " it is largely due to the personal care of Mr Hope and his late colleague, Mr Richard Mackenzie, that the grounds of the Institution are laid out in such an attractive manner." One of the problems which they solved so happily was the approach to the School. It never occurs to anyone to-day to imagine that the approach might have been " from the road directly in front of the centre of the building." One result would have been a small park on each side of the approach. What a contrast this is to the picture to-day of the beautiful sweep of the Avenue and the lovely expanse of the School Park, with its guardian trees !

They were a group of men worthy of all honour.

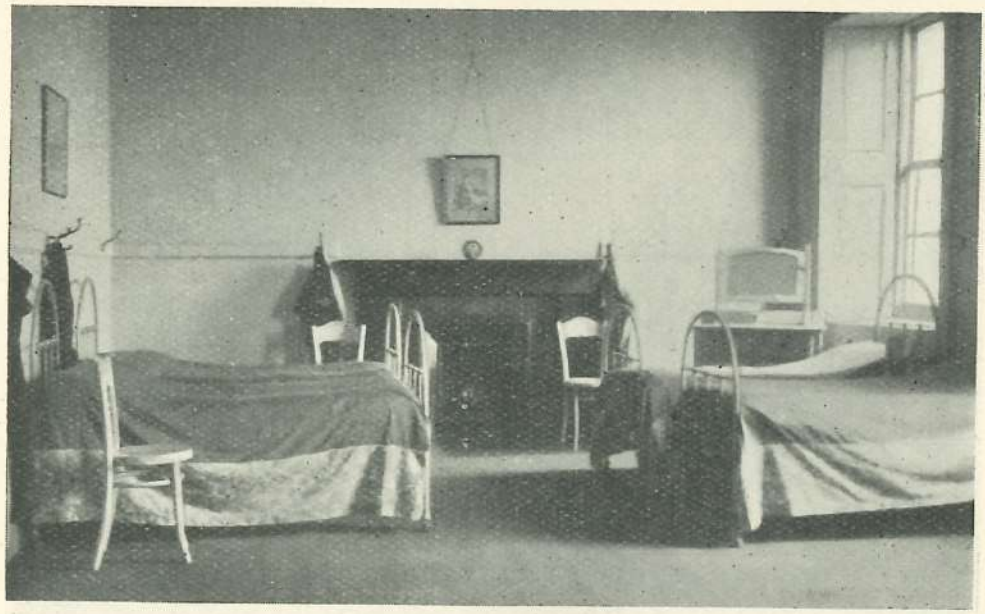
## THE HELEN MUNRO GIFT TO THE SCHOOL.

### Spring Number, 1928.

" Constant leadership of the young must be most exacting, and if any help can be given to those who have this responsibility, surely it should be forthcoming. It is an honour to be allowed to 'take a hand in the game,' however indirectly." It was in this spirit—and to use Miss Munro's own words taken from a letter written by her to Miss Gellatly in September, 1927—that the splendid gift of £250 was then made to the School. Like many other old pupils, Miss Munro had wished for a long time to do something for the School, and through the generous action of her eldest brother, she was happily able to realise her life-long ambition. One of her

chief reasons for doing so at this time was to encourage the Head of the "spindle" side of the House—"because you, one of my contemporaries and school friends, occupy the honourable position you do." Such a compliment speaks for itself.

Miss Munro's gift is the first of the Centenary gifts and it is a worthy one. Everyone connected with the School cannot but admire and be thankful for the kindly spirit which prompted her action. Like Mr Kirkpatrick, W.S., who made it possible for the Headmaster to transform the Second Section into a Science Room, Miss Munro gave Miss Gellatly free reign to her own ideas of improving the conditions of school-life, and with the hearty co-operation of the Headmaster, some excellent schemes have been worked out.



THE GIRLS' FIRST ROOM.

Taking the girls' side of the School first, the girls' First Room has no longer its hundred year old bed-frames and forms, but is furnished completely anew. Its colour scheme of grey and pink wholly satisfies the artistic sense, and the young occupants of the room cannot but be influenced by its beauty and order. A photograph of Miss Munro adorns the walls. The Girls' Schoolroom is now the most cheerful room in the whole School. Painted last summer in yellow and brown, the room is now furnished with many Orkney basket chairs, and small tables here and there. A comfy upholstered fender-stool surrounds the fireplace. Downstairs, the girls' dining-room has not been overlooked for it, too, has a set of comfortable chairs. Visitors to these rooms, in admiring their general effect, have been struck with the fine judgment which Miss Gellatly has shown in realising her ideas.

Miss Munro's gift has also enriched John Watson's with class libraries. These have their place and have proved their worth in all Secondary Schools. In the opinion of the Headmaster, these Libraries fulfil three purposes. They cater for, and develop, the individual taste of the pupils, and Literature, History, Geography, etc., are presented not as lessons, but as things intensely interesting in themselves ; they encourage the beginnings of research and so lay the foundation of that self-education which is the more permanent possession ; and, further, they foster that love of reading and desire for intimacy with the best intellectual work of the day, which is the surest corrective to the too prevalent pre-occupation with the merely sentimental or the crudely sensational.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOLROOM.

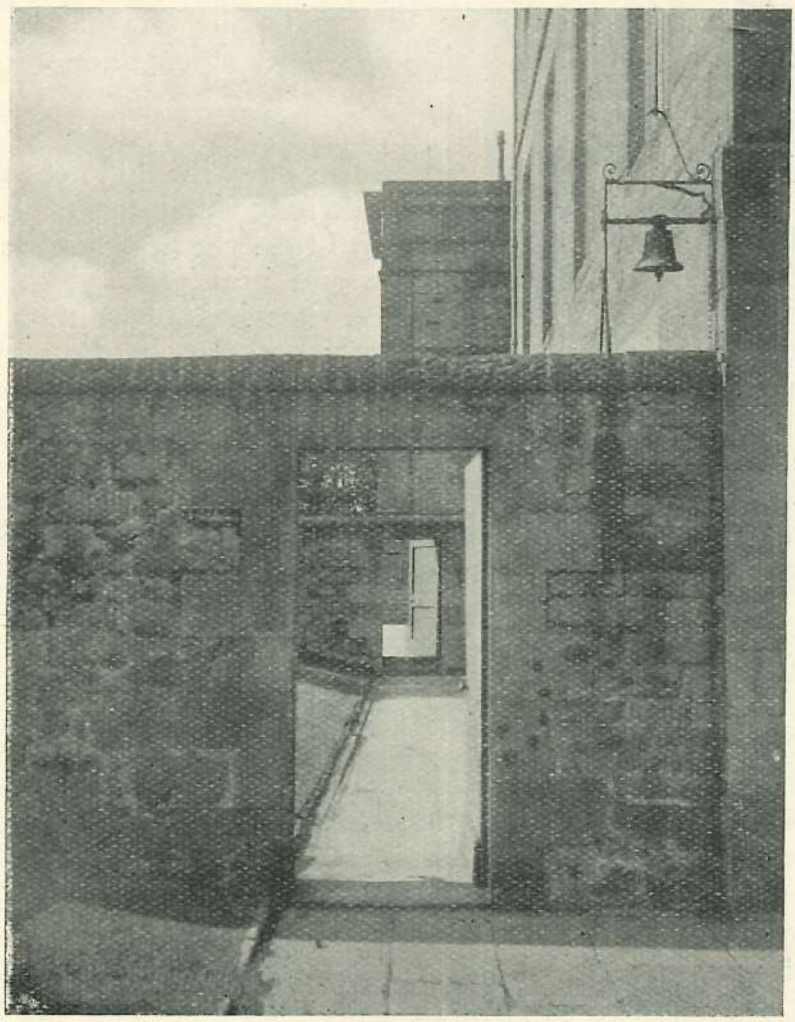
In the three new handsome bookcases which have been placed in the First and Third Sections there are three main divisions of the Library—Literature, History, and Geography and Travel, and the new books, numbering some hundreds, have been chosen on an ordered plan. Of course there are still many gaps, especially in Science, Nature Study, Natural History, Biography and the Classics. Some old pupils may be interested to learn that in each of the main divisions there is a Scottish section, containing books dwelling on the Vernacular ; as well as on Scottish History, social and political ; and on Scotland, and in particular on Edinburgh.

In the Libraries there are now over a thousand books, and a catalogue, running to thrity-two pages, has been compiled by the Headmaster with infinite care.

## THE W.S. SOCIETY CENTENARY GIFT.

Visitors to the School are nowadays greatly impressed with the Entrance Hall. It has a new dignity, a new spaciousness, a new lightsomeness. It is in harmony, too, with the massive pillars of the Porch and the Grecian architecture of the School.

All this was effected when the W.S. Society erected in the Hall, as a memorial of the centenary of the School, two sets of handsome oak panels, one on each side of the central door of the Chapel. Cut into the panels are the names of past and present Keepers of the Signet, Deputy Keepers, Treasurers and Headmasters. In the middle of the panels there appear the bronze medallion of Mr Rowe and the bronze plaque in memory of Mr Langhorne. The walls of the Hall are painted a light stone colour, and the entrance door has now glass upper panels, with lattice-work in oak astrigals, and the fanlight a bronze grille.



THE SCHOOL BELL.

## "A PILLAR OF THE CHURCH."*

The church and school of his fathers have ever been regarded by the Scot as affinities. And there is little doubt that much of this sense of kinship has its origin in the creative work of that early forefather of national education, John Knox. His was the master mind to plan in its entirety, by the medium of his Book of Discipline, the system of parish schools throughout the length and breadth of Scotland, and from their relation to the Church there grew up in after years the genial fatherly interest shown by the minister in the school-world around him. This delightful feature of national life, however, has become, as Dean Ramsay would say, a matter of Scottish reminiscence. This is due to the Education Acts, which have pruned down the number of Schools formerly "thirled" to the Church until John Watson's stand to-day almost the sole survival of the old order. It is therefore natural for *The Levite* to regard with special interest the School's unchanging alliance with the Church, and if anything could intensify the feeling, it is that a large number of the pupils, past and present, are sons and daughters of the manse. With this as our preface, we shall now dwell at length on the Watson kinship.

For the appointed time in which human systems have their little day, they must, if they are to live a full life and not merely to exist, begin with some leavening of divinity within them. It was so with John Watson's. At its inception the School authorities sought to establish certain high purposes and principles, which, having withstood the test of slow gathering time itself, have now become honoured traditions not to be lightly broken. In the number of these principles, John Watson's jealously guards as one of its oldest and most treasured possessions a loyal and unswerving adherence to the Church of Scotland. That this is not a pious opinion, but an undoubted fact, will be acknowledged, when one reflects how momentous church history has been during the ninety-six years of the School's existence, and how well, in its own sphere of influence, the School has played its part in that chapter of events. Briefly, in that period John Watson's has been the chief factor in creating a chapel, in rescuing it from eclipse at the Disruption, and later in converting it into a *quod sacra* parish church. These events are found recorded in the School archives, and there, by the kindness of the Treasurer, we were able to discover the inner history of a romance which will have all the charm of the unknown to most of our readers.

In order to gain a true perspective to our story, we shall take as our starting point the year 1824. This date marks the sixty-second year since the death of John Watson, and also the stage when his original legacy had grown many thousand-fold to over

*A name applied to John Watson's by the late Rev. Dr. Williamson of the Dean.

£112,000, a result which, as long as the School exists, will reflect honour on the work of six successive venerable fathers of the Society of Writers to the Signet. Now, at last, in 1824 had the long hoped for moment come when the aged Treasurer, Vans Hathorn, was to see the child of his brain become visible in form. Uppermost in his thoughts came the provision of a good environment for the School—which is an education in itself. He probably never anticipated that there would be "a battle of sites" over the question. History, indeed, tells that four sites were actually considered, but that one alone, at the Dean, received favour. With this happy unity of opinion, the W.S. Society purchased fifteen acres Scotch measure of land far on the western outskirts of the city of Edinburgh from Sir John Nisbet, Baronet, of the Dean. The portion of the ground set apart for the School was pleasantly situated on a height, bordered, on its wooded slope, by a placid stream, the Water of Leith, and the pure air sweeping over the wide expanse of open country all around made the site unrivalled from a health standpoint. The isolation of the spot was remarkable, one might have imagined it was the world's end. This solitude was, indeed, the source of a serious problem to the Directors. They asked themselves, how were they to adequately provide for the spiritual welfare of their future charges? The nearest church was the West Kirk or St. Cuthbert's more than a mile distant, and the road to it was long and rough and steep. The difficulty was well met at the time by Vans Hathorn, whose advice was that "as there is" to use his own words, "no expectation of getting accommodation for the children to attend public worship in any church in the vicinity . . . . . I think a large and lofty room in the School should be fitted up entirely as a Chapel for morning and evening prayers every day and for public worship every Sunday. Indeed, if wings (to the building) be adopted, one of these might be made the Chapel." While this plan would undoubtedly tend to make the School a community of a more or less monastic order, that, again, was akin to that subtle influence, the spirit of the age, which led to boarding schools being conducted on these lines. Eventually the Directors decided to act upon the idea underlying Vans Hathorn's proposal, and space for a Chapel was reserved in the plans of the School building. Slowly the walls of the School rose to their height. Then, when the School roof was newly put in place, the Directors began to interview applicants for the post of House Governor, as the Headmaster was then called. They required one who could undertake the triple duties of teacher, governor and chaplain. Their choice fell, as our readers know, upon Mr, later the Reverend Charles Marshall—with happy results. For the first few sessions of his regime, until the children increased in number, Prayers were held in one of the Sections, but in the year 1833 the School Chapel, having then been fitted up with appropriate furnishings, entered into the life of the scholars, and from its pulpit services were daily conducted by the House Governor.

## ST. BERNARD'S.

On the day before John Watson's opened its doors on Tuesday, 12th August, 1828, a group of the Directors were seated at a round table conference. The morrow entered much into their thoughts and plans, and so also did the Sabbath day following. To them the School would not begin well if the first day of the week was not spent in regular churchgoing fashion. Action, therefore, best became them. And before they parted company, two of their number were deputed to call upon the Rev. James Martin, the minister of Stockbridge Chapel (now St. Bernard's Parish Church), to suggest that the pupils attend his church and to arrange for sittings being reserved for them. The result of their mission was very different from their attempt of four years before. The young minister welcomed both the idea and the children themselves. This interest on Mr Martin's part was real, for little time elapsed before he took the initiative of visiting his youthful parishioners from time to time. Almost the first of these visits was of a sad nature, a little girl had died a month after the opening of the School, and he, with the Rev. Dr. Dickson of St. Cuthbert's, attended her burial in the School graveyard. But always pleasant to everyone were the visits Mr Martin paid on the Vacation Days of the School ; on these occasions he shared in the old time custom of examining the pupils in their school-work. Then also he could judge for himself the progress which the children had made in learning " church music " under the tuning-fork of his precentor—the School's first singing master.

Notwithstanding all these kindly links with St. Bernard's, one cannot but admit that there was one serious drawback, the long distance between the church and the school, especially so, when, as we know, the children, some of tender years, were required to attend both the morning and afternoon diets of worship. Even one walk to the church was a Sabbath day's journey indeed If, however, the children's feet grew weary in traversing the picturesque, though rough, road, their imagination could never tire. A thousand thoughts about such a country lane make an instant appeal to the imagination. Let us therefore turn our thoughts back to ninety years ago, and in spirit, accompany the young folks upon their walk to St. Bernard's.

The day we select for this purpose is a bright Sunday morning in early summer. Overhead the sun shines in undimmed splendour ; large fleecy clouds float lazily in a blue sky ; while a soft breeze, passing over the crest of the Kiddern, deliciously cools the atmosphere, and fitfully stirs the fresh tinted foliage of saplings planted in Park and Avenue. Round the Bower the birds wheel and curve. The work of man's hands, the School, shows an air of newness, but withal the plantings and the wood that rises thickly in the background give rich promise of a beautiful setting to John Watson's in days to come. As we stand, waiting, by the Bower, there emerges presently from

the doorway of the sunlit School porch the group of children, which we are to join. Among the twenty-five boys present we see William Ballingall (whose School letter is A1), Peter McOmish "A4," who is to become Third Section Master on reaching his fourteenth birthday and David Scruton Thomson, another future master. The children are accompanied by the House Governor and Matron. How quaintly our young friends are dressed! The boys wear peaked caps and Eton suits of fine brown cloth, the sombre tone relieved by glitter of brass buttons, while the girls appear in poke bonnets, brown wincey frocks, white stockings and flat sandal shoes. The children are in happy mood, the Fast Day is behind them, and any of them, with a child's love of exactness, can tell us how many more sabbath days they have to spend in school until the Vacation Day comes. While passing down the sweep of the Avenue the young folks are interested in all around them, some catch fleeting glimpses through immemorial trees of the ancient Dean Manor House in the distance, others, of a practical mind, count how much the stone-masons have added in a week's time to the walls of the Orphan Hospital near at hand. At the Lodge gates they see the tall figure of the porter, Sandy McCraa. The Waterloo veteran salutes them as they pass. Turning to the right they wend their way between hedge-rows down the steep descent to Bell Ford, flanked on one side by Bell's Mills, which supply the staff of life to the School. The children ardently wish, as they cross the low awkward bridge which spans the Water of Leith, that they could see the mill-wheel revolve with bright splash of water and hear the rumbling murmur of the milling-stones, but it is Sunday, and all is silent. Their voices are subdued, but soon their feet make cheerful clatter up the silent cobbled alleys between granaries of seventeenth century masonry. Does it enter their day-dreams that their real church is to find a first settlement under the shelter of a granary roof? No, their thoughts are mundane. They are breasting a rising slope, and there stands the "wee shoppie," long known to several generations of pupils.

The road, more tame, runs up and down by curiously grouped clusters of houses till a level stretch meets, at right angles, the ancient bridge at the Lower Dean village. It is a veritable pilgrims' way across which the children now walk. Their glances follow the receding figures of the douce folk of the Dean slowly ascending Bell's Brae on their way to the West Kirk. It was down that path in olden time that the rude cavalcade of Malcolm Canmore and his consort often travelled and that the saintly queen's body, after her death at the Castle, was carried to Dunfermline Abbey. Now the children look in the opposite direction, towards Dean Path. This steep road is crowned by the ancient Dean Manor House; it is girdled about by a colony of weavers, and near-by stands the smiddy of Robbie Orrock, who actively helped the "Friends of the People" in 1792 by forging pikes for their use—but the panic-stricken conspirators threw the weapons into the pool near the smiddy door.

Leaving the old causeway behind, our little procession winds slowly by one of nature's beauty spots, called the World's End, a grouping of woodland, quiet waters and rugged rocks over which "the white foam is strewn in sad profusion." The fair scene is as yet unframed by the high arches of the Dean Bridge. They enter the long ravine topped by Lord Moray's grounds, and the picturesque vista of the Chapel itself, rising above the green tree-tops, becomes clearer and larger. When the children pass St. Bernard's Well, the more delicate of them give an involuntary shudder ; the beauties of the classic structure do not appeal to them, for it reminds them only too well of the physic which is drawn from the mineral spring under the School chapel windows. More pleasant is the sound of the kirk bell which now echoes along the valley, and the children, with quickening footsteps, proceed by the white-washed cottages at Stockbridge, with scant notice of further landmarks. In good time the chapel is reached, and our travelled group walk up the aisle and sit in the School pews around the pulpit. There we shall take our leave of them.

## THE DEAN PARISH CHURCH.

Sunday after Sunday the journeys made by the children between the School and Stockbridge chapel went on uninterruptedly for seven years, except in 1833, when cholera swept away thousands of Edinburgh citizens. It was thought to be unsafe for the children to

THE PARK IN 1910.

attend church and accordingly Sunday services were held in the School Chapel. Ordinarily as the children passed through the Water of Leith village on Sundays, they witnessed the familiar sight of the villagers who were bent on public worship, separating into two streams near the ancient bridge, the church-goers ascending Bell's Brae on their townward way to the West Kirk (St. Cuthbert's) and the chapel-goers turning eastward down the valley to the Stockbridge chapel. But one Sunday in the autumn of 1833 the unusual happened. The village folks diverged into three streams. Those composing the new, third stream, faced westwards, passing the whole length of the children's ranks. The people were evidently going to some place of worship, and the young folks wondered where it could be located. Their Headmaster would doubtless know, he was at the time a student at the Theological Hall, and would naturally be familiar with the various phases of any new religious movement. Perhaps he explained to the children how village life near a large city reflects every shade of the religious and political movements of its neighbour, illustrating his theme by picturing the musterings of the Dean contingent of Covenanters at Belford Park to join their brethern at Rullion Green, the gathering of the local followers of Prince Charlie, and the meetings of the Dean political discontents who joined hands with the " Friends of the People " society in 1792. Then they would be told that they were witnessing a religious movement which had recently spread from Edinburgh to the village itself and that the Dean folk were likely to have a kirk of their own very soon.

It is of course well known that this religious movement was the great church extension scheme by which the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland proposed to erect places of worship where needed in populous towns and outlying districts. In two years' time forty of such enterprises were taken up enthusiastically, and one of the earliest was that in the Water of Leith village. The village was certainly in urgent need of a church, for out of a population of over fourteen hundred, only one hundred and fifty of the people had church sittings anywhere. A missionary, Mr James Keith Hay, was sent to the village, and he began to gather the people together in temporary meeting-houses. His efforts met with such success that even an old malt granary, by the water-side, capable of holding 400 people, was generally filled to overflowing. It may be mentioned, in passing, that this inspiring evidence of the Dean folks' earnestness was a repetition of what happened in 1687, when " a man of the moss haggs," the Rev. David Williamson, gathered together so many loyal adherents that the meeting-house, which they erected for his services, was so well attended as to serve to thin the pews of the West Kirk on Sundays ! History does not mention the reason why that meeting-house was no longer in existence in 1833. We know, however, that in that year while Mr Hay was attending to the welfare of the people, Dr. Chalmers set himself the task of collecting

funds for the building of a church. The neighbouring proprietors were called upon by him and by his enthusiastic colleague, Mr Robert Paul, Manager of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, who acted as Treasurer. This small deputation was everywhere warmly received. At the head of the list of subscribers to the church funds one finds ten donations amounting to £356, and promises of an annual payment of £30 towards the minister's stipend, which was fixed at £80. The governors of the Orphans' Hospital agreed to give £20 annually as a rent for about 200 sittings. But Dr. Chalmers and Mr Paul were to find their strongest support in John Watson's. The Directors gave a donation of £300, and a bond for £30 towards the stipend, upon the condition that the School had permanent right to the south gallery of the church, and had a voice, with four other parties, in the patronage of the church.

Of course, all these negotiations took time to complete, especially as the whole idea of church extension was absolutely new to that generation, but it is worthy of record that within twenty months of the coming of Mr Hay to the Dean, the plans of a church in a Gothic style, capable of seating 650 people, had been drawn up by Mr J. Gillespie Graham, the architect of the General Assembly Hall, ground at the Dean secured, and the foundation stone of the new church laid, on 15th July, 1835. Four months later high hopes of the church being soon ready for worship were entertained, and the School accordingly gave up its sittings at the Stockbridge chapel and for the next six months Mr Hay preached each Sunday to the children in the School Chapel.

On Sunday, 15th May, 1836, the Dean Church was opened for public worship, and its first minister was the young missionary, Mr Hay. The church was dedicated at the forenoon service by Dr. Chalmers, who preached to a crowded congregation from the text :— " And the common people heard Him gladly " (St. Mark xii., 37). The Watson gallery was no less crowded than the others, for it is recorded that the Deputy Keeper, and the Directors and their friends met at the Institution that morning at half-past ten, and walked in procession, with the children, to the church. Into the collection box that day the venerable Treasurer, Mr Vans Hathorn, placed £10 from the Watson trust funds, and each child was presented with a sixpence for that purpose that " each of them may have the gratification of contributing to the funds of the church." After the service Dr. Chalmers was approached by the church patrons and asked for his consent, which he readily gave, to his sermon being printed for the benefit of the " Dean."

That Sunday was made even more memorable to the children by an annular eclipse of the sun taking place in the afternoon. The event is depicted in an engraving, showing a view of the church, which was printed with the great churchman's sermon. On account of the eclipse the afternoon service was postponed to the evening,

when Mr Hay occupied the pulpit, thus fitly rounding off the first great day in the story of the Dean church.

By the time that Mr Hay was ordained, on 18th August, 1836, the whole debt on the church building, which amounted to £2813, had been cleared off. How great an achievement this was can be measured by the fact that the average Sunday collection in these early days was only £1 4s. If the Dean folks were poor in worldly goods, they were certainly rich in faith and works.

The new Dean chapel had not been established very long before it was living up to the claim that the Church is the greatest educator in the country. Two of its galleries being wholly occupied by boarding school children, the Dean naturally turned its attention to the education of the children living in the Water of Leith village, and soon there arose day-schools near the ancient bridge in the valley. This service to the community received wide publicity in a brilliant speech made by Dr. Chalmers on the subject of education. The years passed on, each with its record of progress, the chapel exercising a genuine interest in the schools and the schools no less in the chapel. The Directors of John Watson's became familiar figures to the congregation, and it was fitting that when Mr Vans Hathorn died on 8th October, 1839, "it was ordered that the Directors' seat at the Dean chapel should be lined with black cloth and it was suggested that as many Directors as found it convenient should attend at the chapel during the morning service" along with the staff and pupils.

The 'Forties, which have left an indelible mark on ecclesiastical affairs, have now been reached in this history. In 1840 the first Kirk Session of the Dean was appointed and a definite district attached to the church was formed into a *quoad sacra* parish. Then once again the village life was to reflect the religious movement of its large neighbour. This movement was later to become known by the ominous name of "The Ten Years' Conflict." And the Dean had its own share of trouble. In March, 1842, the pulpit became vacant, and some months elapsed before the Rev. James Manson, assistant at Abernyte, was presented to the charge. Before the next General Assembly was held in Edinburgh, Mr Manson had become a "Disruptionist," a quaint term taken from a letter written by the Rev. Dr. Forbes, the scholarly Headmaster of John Watson's since 1841. Five months later, October 1843, Mr Manson preached for the last time in the Dean, and with him there went out the whole kirk session and almost the entire body of the people. The Orphans' Hospital connection was also severed. To the superstitious, the omen of the opening day of the chapel was fittingly fulfilled, the chapel itself suffered an eclipse, but only temporarily. John Watson's had happily a strong man in its Head, who courageously rose to the occasion. The following short biography will reveal what manner of man he was. A son of the old manse of Boharn, a licensed minister, an oriental scholar, an intimate of John Stuart Blackie, a friend of

Goethe, and a traveller who knew most continental towns of repute, Dr. Forbes was all these before he came to John Watson's. Having been the first to draw attention to the claims of Mr Manson to retain the church, Dr. Forbes did not hesitate, when asked, to take upon his broad shoulders the additional work of carrying on the Dean ministry, until a suitable minister could be obtained. Amongst his first duties he was asked "to give notice next Sunday from the pulpit, and by billets that parties wishing to have seats might in the meantime apply to him." The Directors, no less than the Head, were anxious to do all in their power, and they increased their grant toward the stipend by the amount that the Orphans' Hospital had given formerly. The School Treasurer, Mr John Hamilton, also proved himself a stalwart in the interests of the Dean. He took sole charge of the chapel's finances for several years, and in addition to his services, gave of his private means in order that the minister, precentor and beadle might not suffer.

An anxious six months went by before Dr. Forbes could be relieved of his pulpit duties. On a Sunday in April, 1844, the large box-pew in the Watson gallery of the chapel was fully occupied by the Directors, who came to hear the Rev. Dr. Birkmyre preach on trial. "The Directors were much pleased with the manner of his preaching and intend to recommend him to the other subscribers," *i.e.*, patrons. Then followed the Doctor's induction to the Dean on 2nd May, 1844. Born in 1796, he took his M.A. degree at Glasgow University in 1816, and after a ministry of nine years at Fredericton, New Brunswick, he returned to Scotland in 1841. He had received the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1840.

With Dr. Birkmyre's advent, the Dean was to be, like the nation without a history, happy. Towards the end, as at the beginning, of his ministry of twenty years, Dr. Birkmyre's hands were to be strengthened by influence from John Watson's. It happened that in 1858 a new Headmaster came in the person of Mr George Rowe. Although a native of Truro and a Wesleyan, Mr Rowe, when he came to John Watson's, sunk all his other interests in that of the good of the School. Like Mr Rowe's own pupils, Dr. Birkmyre soon realised the stamp of the man who now sat in the Directors' pew in the Watson gallery. In a few months' time Mr Rowe was ordained an elder. Four years later he was appointed the Session Clerk, and through all the vicissitudes of the next thrity-five years Mr Rowe was found faithful at his post. For seven of these years he had as a fellow elder his friend Mr, later Dr., George Ogilvie, while the latter was Headmaster of Daniel Stewart's Hospital, the pupils of that school having sittings in the Dean until the College was converted into a day school in 1870.

Upon Dr. Birkmyre's death on 3rd June, 1864, the Directors of John Watson's took the opportunity of sounding the other patrons with a view to getting the church endowed—one of their objects being

to attract a man of standing to the pulpit—but conscientious scruples were met with which showed that the time was not yet ripe.

When the pulpit of the Dean Chapel became vacant through the death of the Rev. Dr. Birkmyre in June, 1864, seven months elapsed before the search for a successor met with definite result. At length the patrons of the church presented to the charge a young minister, the Rev. Robert W. Walker of Whitekirk, who had had a distinguished college career, gaining the M.A. degree when only nineteen years old, and the B.D. degree two years later.

The Directors of John Watson's, headed by Mr James Hope, the venerable Deputy Keeper, and Mr John Hamilton, the aged

WATSON VILLA, THE HEADMASTER'S HOUSE.

Treasurer, ever led the way in the endeavour to make the position of the young minister more assured and free from financial cares; and the sixth year of Mr Walker's ministry was marked by them with a truly generous gift. Without making any call upon the congregation at all, John Watson's dipped deep into its purse and gave the sum of £1,250—as also did the Endowment Committee of the Church of Scotland—to endow the Chapel, and convert it into a *quoad sacra* parish church. This act on the part of a School is, we venture to say, unique in the annals of the Scottish Church, and it is all the more worthy of praise and honour because it is so little known.

There are now comparatively few former pupils alive who remember the ministry of Mr Walker, but his name survives in the

Watson rhyme coined by the " Levites " of the 70's after they had vacated their seats in the School gallery for the last time. It runs :—

Good-bye to the Dean,
Good-bye to the steeple,
Good-bye to Walky
And all his good people.

There are, however, several generations of pupils who hold the next pastor of the Dean in affectionate remembrance. He is the Rev. James Williamson, D.D. Born at Kirkcudbright, in 1833, he had a record of twenty years of splendid service as a Chaplain in India to his credit before he became the first minister to be elected by the parishioners to the Dean, in 1879. It was characteristic of Mr Williamson that immediately upon his coming to the charge, he should seek to make the interior of the church more pleasing to the eye, and the School books show that John Watson's gave £45 towards the expense of a new pulpit, and the painting, cleaning and glazing of the church. In parenthesis, glazing was a costly item to the Dean in those days, for we read that the windows were " often broken by stones thrown by boys from the Water of Leith village."

At the beginning Mr Williamson was faced with as serious problems at the Dean as he had had at Allahabad when a younger man, but happily he found a trusted counsellor at Watson Villa. Mr Rowe had been the session clerk of the Dean since 1862, and Mr Williamson has left it on record that Mr Rowe was " the right hand of the minister, and an old and dear friend."

In the year 1884 Mr Williamson had the church renovated, the seats being re-arranged. There were about 650 sittings, of which 100 belonged to John Watson's. The School gallery was left unchanged, the large box-pew of the Directors and Headmaster remaining a conspicuous feature of it. While the Dean was in the workmen's hands, the pupils attended service with the congregation at the Well Court Hall and at West Coates Parish Church—the latter is the church attended by the children of Donaldson's Hospital.

As Mr Williamson saw the rural features of the village gradually disappear, and the town, creeping outwards, acquire the district of Ravelston as a suburb, he drew around him many of the friends whom he had known in India, as residents of the suburb and as members of his congregation. It speaks well for the common loyalty of the local settlement that wealth and poverty met on one level at the Dean. Indeed, Mr Williamson's influence was felt in all parts of the parish, in Ravelston, the Dean Village and Comely Bank, to such an extent that the communion roll of 150 in 1879 had increased to nearly tenfold that number during the latter years of his ministry. He was a typical " visiting " minister of the old school.

As time went on the inadequacy of the accommodation of the church became more and more of a handicap to Mr Williamson in his work, and, although he was nearing his seventieth year, he felt impelled to shoulder the heavy burden of erecting a new church

large enough to hold all his communicants. The magnitude of the work which lay before him may, in slight measure, be conceived when it is recalled that while the old church was built for less than £3000, the new building was to cost four times that amount. Mr Williamson, however, threw all his wonted energy and magnetic power into the work and his congregation responded in a most loyal manner. Among his chief supporters was Principal Sir William Muir, who was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the church at Allahabad which Mr Williamson had erected, and who eventually laid the foundation stone of the new Dean Church.

It is almost needless to say that John Watson's gave liberally to Mr Williamson's *magnum opus*. From the School funds a donation of £300 was sent to the Dean. The former pupils also took an active interest in the Dean's affairs, and at the Church bazaar, held in November, 1901, John Watson's had a stall, under the convenership of Miss Murray, which "was highly complimented on drawing over £120." For a subsequent Sale of Work John Watson's lent the School Park to the Dean for the occasion, and another sum of £200 was added to the building fund.

Amongst the most outstanding gifts to the Dean were those from the brother of a John Watson girl. He was the Rev. G. W. Manson, a retired chaplain of the Bengal establishment. He gifted the spire and belfry of the new church, also the pulpit, elders' pews and communion chairs.

The old church was demolished in the summer of 1901, and in the interval until the new Church Hall was ready, the congregation, joined by the School, worshipped in the Church Hall of St. George's.

Then came that red letter day in the life of Mr Williamson and of the Dean, Saturday, 30th May, 1903, when the new church was opened with fitting ceremony in presence of a large congregation. Amongst the School representatives present were several of the Directors, Mr and Mrs Rowe, Mr Langhorne, Miss Murray, also the Rev. D. G. Hamilton and several of the former and present pupils.

Lofty of spire and of arched ceiling, the church is striking in its contrast to the old building. It is a landmark easily recognisable from the Belford Bridge. The spacious interior of the church holds 935 sittings. It has three galleries, the north is occupied by members of the congregation, the east is reserved for the organ and the choir, and the south for John Watson's, the School gallery being thus on its old traditional site. Upon the walls of the church several memorial tablets have in recent years been erected, one of these to the memory of Mr Rowe is in the School gallery.

We shall content ourselves with the recital of these few facts about the church because there are few former pupils who have not visited it on the occasions of the "Levites'" Kirkings which have been held at Christmas time for over twenty years. It may be of

interest to recall that the first Kirking took place on 20th December, 1903, when the Very Rev. Dr. Macgregor dedicated the new pipe organ, which cost £800. The second Kirking was notable for the fact that it was the first time a John Watson boy had occupied the pulpit of the Dean. He was the Rev. D. G. Hamilton, now of Kelso, the Club President for many years. At other Kirkings the Lessons have on occasion been read by Major Naismith, D.S.O., M.A., and Mr D. A. McRury, M.A.

Mr Williamson pastored John Watson's so long that it grew to be an integral part of his charge. He delighted to be known as our chaplain. The ceremony on the Vacation Days of the School was never missed by him, but we liked best to have him take evening prayers in the School Chapel, as he did periodically. A happy memory with many old pupils will be that of the tall patriachal figure which towered in the School pulpit, with arms leaning far beyond the book board and with hands interlocked, as our chaplain delivered his message to us.

It was therefore as great a pleasure to John Watson's as to his congregation when Mr Williamson was honoured by his Alma Mater, Glasgow University, in 1905, with the degree of D.D. As the Rev. Mr Hamilton truly said in a tribute to the Doctor in these pages "*Honoris causa* certainly applied in his case." Dr. Williamson celebrated his ministerial jubilee in 1909, and it was not until six years later that he thought of rest. He retired on New Year's Day, 1916. Three years later he died suddenly on 19th November, 1919, in his 87th year, and thus terminated one of the most arduous careers in the Scottish Church.

The present Minister of the Dean, the Rev. James Reekie, B.D., keeps up not only all those kindly links with the School which have "thirled" John Watson's to the Church of Scotland and, in particular, to the Dean, but has also forged a new link by instituting an annual service for "Levites" at the Church on the Sunday before the Vacation Day.

In conclusion, this chronicle of passing events has proved it no empty phrase to say that John Watson's has been a pillar to the Dean Church for ninety-three years. Without the School, history might have repeated itself, and the Dean might have sunk into oblivion as the former Meeting-House in the village did. That is a thought which may have a definite place in the minds of the pupils as they take pride in their old School.

D. M. Thomson.

## BENEFICIARIES OF JOHN WATSON'S.

John Watson's has come to the aid of many fatherless children and it is of great interest in view of the article "A Pillar of the Church" to note that the ministry and its kindred professions, medicine and teaching, are respectively first, second and third as regards the number of children, who have been maintained and educated within its walls. Two hundred and sixty-four children of the manse, 240 children of doctors and 106 children of teachers are numbered among those who through this school were given the opportunity to reach a position in life, which poverty might have rendered impossible.

About 1,500 other children have received the same benefits and these represent many walks of life. Civil servants, bankers, lawyers, engineers, insurance and others are all included, and yet it is strange that John Watson's is not remembered by such of these professions who bequeath their money for charitable purposes. Many legacies are made towards Church charities and the writer suggests to those with such intentions that they do not forget the School which has done so much for sons and daughters of the manse. To doctors, also, he would recommend that they consider the great work performed by this School to help the widows of their colleagues. John Watson's has given freely and generously and should receive support and material assistance from those professions, to which it has given inestimable benefits and for whose children it has proved a great insurance. There are few charities more deserving of legacies and bequests and that this be remembered is the writer's fervent hope.

## "W. F. WEIR BURSARY FUND."

On Vacation Days for more years than we can recall a certain old gentleman used regularly to sit near the door at the boys' side of the School Chapel. Many an Old Boy may remember the quiet retiring tall figure, and may have wondered, as we did long ago, who he was. It was not until the Club was formed in 1899 that we discovered him to be Mr William Fyfe Weir of 4 Greenhill Gardens, one of Mr Rowe's early pupils, a "Levite" of 1862. He had all his life a warm regard for the School, and an abiding friendly interest in his contemporaries. In his periodical visits to London he found time to get in touch with old school companions, among whom was a life-long friend, Mr Robert Stocks (left 1862), a senior official of the National Bank Ltd., in London, whose death he felt deeply.

Mr Weir was interested in his quiet fashion with all matters connected with the Club. Whenever a Number of *The Levite* was

published, he invariably called upon the Editor to express a kindly appreciation of some item which had refreshed his memory. He was always ready to give financial support to the Club's objects, and the appeal to help on the War Memorial bursary scheme fell on such fruitful ground that he made not only an immediate response at the time, but also a lasting provision which was only known when a subsequent long illness ended, to our regret, in his death on 15th April, 1922. This, the old pupils will be greatly interested to know, took the form of a legacy of £1,000 to the School " to establish a fund, to be called the W. F. Weir Bursary Fund, for the benefit of children of merit at the Institution." While the method which Mr Weir adopted of paying his debt of honour to the School will keep his memory greem, it also becomes a sign-post to other old pupils.

Out of this legacy the Directors have devised an admirable bursary scheme " for the benefit of children of merit at the Institution." The two main regulations of the scheme are :—

(*a*) The bursary shall, if funds permit, be £40 a year, tenable for three years, so long as the holder attends regularly at any of the Scottish or English Universities and provides satisfactory certificates.

(*b*) The bursary shall be payable in advance, half-yearly, at the terms of Martinmas and Whitsunday, the first payment being made after the Bursar has matriculated. Before each succeeding payment the Bursar is required to produce satisfactory evidence of a bona-fide attendance of a full course of study at the University and provide satisfactory certificates, otherwise the bursary may be withheld. The bursary may also be declared forfeited if the Bursar ceases University studies or goes abroad.

It is a great example for other former pupils to follow and those, who have been the actual beneficiaries of the School, should, whenever it is in their power, show their gratitude by similar bequests. The F.P. School Fund has been opened so that gifts and legacies, however small, may accumulate and be available to meet increased expenditure which renovations and repairs may render necessary in the course of time.

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